



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE

INFORMATION & RESOURCES FOR MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S

LAMBA BETA CHAPTER



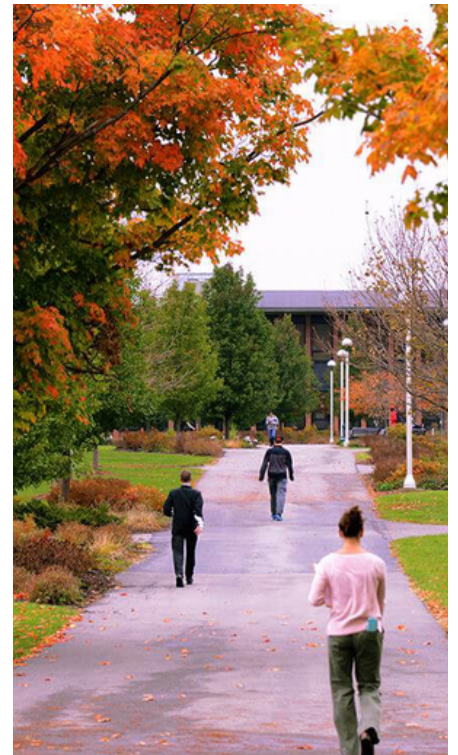
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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR PTK MEMBERS

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE THE NUMBER ONE REASON STUDENTS JOIN PHI THETA KAPPA

but scholarships are not automatic; one must apply. This guide reviews three sources of funds for PTK members, including scholarships available via donors to PTK's Foundation,

scholarships from transfer institutions available via PTKConnect, and scholarships from MVCC's Foundation. It outlines the basic steps in locating and applying for these scholarships and provides an overview of individuals and offices that can help in the process.

PTK SCHOLARSHIPS

Each fall, Phi Theta Kappa’s Foundation sponsors 22 scholarship programs. Each year they award nearly one million dollars.

Scholarships are available for dual-enrolled, transfer, and career-track students, and most scholarships can be applied for with a single application.

FALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE DEC. 1ST TO DO

The average applicant spends 2 to 6 hours on their application. The most successful applicants spend between 8 and 12 hours.



Break the process into a set of tasks with the list below.

BY NOV. 24TH | BY NOV. 17TH | BY NOV. 10TH | END OF OCT.

- Complete the 11-question **Eligibility Quiz** at scholarships.ptk.org.
- Download and review the full application.
- Identify and reach out to potential recommenders.
- Brainstorm, free write, map, or draft your significant endeavor and other essays.*
- Meet with a scholarship advisor or [writing consultant](#) for writing support or feedback.
- Revise, refine, and proofread your **essays**.*
- Send your essay and official recommendation request to a recommender (see p.5).
- Complete or update the **Applicant Info** portion of the application.
- Complete or update the **Action** tab.
- Complete the **Workforce** or **Healthcare** tab if available.
- Upload **unofficial transcript**.**
- Upload your **letter of recommendation****
- Answer all questions in the **Fall Programs** portion of the application.
- Complete the **Waivers** tab.

* Fall career track students do not have to write a significant endeavor essay. All applications include short essays.

** Some health professions applicants are not required to upload select documents.

MAKE YOUR APPLICATION EVEN STRONGER BY COMPLETING [COMPETITIVE EDGE](#) OR [TRANSFER EDGE](#).



TO QUALIFY *

- Be enrolled in at least 6 hours of coursework in the current semester.
- Complete a minimum of 36 hours by the end of December 2023.
- Have earned a 3.5 or higher GPA going into the fall semester.
- Complete the application by December 1st.

* While select scholarships require PTK membership, some are open to anyone who meets the above qualifications.

TO UPLOAD *

- Current transcripts [unofficial]
- Current letter of recommendation

* Although select scholarships (2) require U.S. citizenship, as of fall 2023, students no longer have to upload citizenship documentation.

* To remain eligible, materials, including transcripts and recommendations, must be updated every term.



SIGNIFICANT ENDEAVOR ESSAY

The significant endeavor essay is the centerpiece and most heavily weighted part of fall applications. It constitutes over 50% of your total score. It is also a chance for you to tell your story.

This is what the judges are looking for:

- Focus on a single significant endeavor.
- Make sure to choose a story that highlights your academic and intellectual abilities.
- Explain the need or circumstances in your school, community, or college that led to your significant endeavor.
- Outline how you acted to address the need.
- Acknowledge challenges that arose in the context of your endeavor.
- Show how you applied your education and leadership skills to benefit the school, community, or society.
- Reflect on the impact of your endeavor.
- Make full use of the 500-word limit.

WRITING TIPS

Read, understand, and follow all instructions

- Use close to the full number of allotted words.
- Ensure you understand all questions. If you're not sure, ask an advisor.

Give evidence

- Use specific details to demonstrate your point, quality, or accomplishment.
- When relaying information about your activities and endeavors, tell the judges how much, how many, and how often.

Be thorough

- Answer all questions. Blank fields lose points.
- Proofread. Ask others to proofread. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors lose points.

Be authentic

- Avoid cliches and writing what you think judges want to hear. They know the tropes of the form.
- Tell the truth in your own voice.
- Works composed by AI will be disqualified.

Use your resources (see p. 5)

- If you are not sure what to write, reach out to an advisor or writing consultants.
- It is very difficult to identify your own errors. Use at least one second reader.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Your letter of recommendation is almost as important as your essay.

When selecting and communicating with your recommender, keep the following in mind:

- Select someone who can speak to your significant endeavor and your leadership throughout the project.
- Choose someone who can provide specific and pertinent information.
- Request early. Give your recommender time to compose a strong letter.
- Explain the criteria of the award by using the recommendation request form from PTK (see p. 5).
- Remember to send your recommender a thank you note.

THE GREEK WORDS PHI, THETA, KAPPA REPRESENT WISDOM, ASPIRATION, AND PURITY.



MVCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Over the past five years, the Foundation has given out more than \$1.5 million in scholarships, helping nearly 2,500 students. While MVCC Foundation Scholarships are open to all qualifying students, PTK students are especially well-positioned to win.

Check out the basics below:

- A single application can be used for most scholarships.
- Each scholarship has unique eligibility criteria.
- Scholarship deadlines vary but most applications are due by **November 15th** or **April 1st**.
- A letter of recommendation from an MVCC faculty member is required.
- Unofficial transcripts are required.
- Both general and discipline-specific scholarships are available.
- Some applications require an essay.
- Some require more than one letter of recommendation.



PTK CONNECT

PTK has almost 800 four-year college partners who provide \$246 million in scholarships specifically for PTK members. The average transfer scholarship is \$2,500 a year. PTK Connect links members with these scholarships.

Use your PTK login credentials at [PTK Connect](#) to:

- Identify and compare colleges by location, major, transfer-friendliness, and other criteria.
- Find colleges that offer PTK and other transfer scholarship opportunities.
- Learn about scholarship criteria and conditions.
- Explore career pathways and employment statistics by state.
- Identify colleges based on career pathways.
- Express your interest in and connect with recruiters from four-year institutions.

Not all institutions that offer PTK scholarships maintain their information on PTK. If you're exploring a college or university that is not listed on PTK Connect, ask if they provide scholarship opportunities for PTK members.

The **SUNY Diversity Honors Scholarship** is offered by the State University of New York (SUNY) to continue its commitment to supporting and retaining a diverse student body that reflects the population of the state. The application is due April 1st and is available on the [MV Scholarship page](#).



CONTACTS & SUPPORT

PTK Scholarship advisors can help with any part of the application process including essay development & review.

- **Professor Erin Severs**
 - esevers@mvcc.edu
 - [315-792-5522](tel:315-792-5522)
 - PH320 or Zoom
- **Danielle Del Giudice**
 - ddel-giudice@mvcc.edu
 - [315-792-5598](tel:315-792-5598)
 - WH131 in The Learning Commons or Zoom

Writing support

- Students working on their significant endeavor essay or any other scholarship essay can make appointments with [Learning Commons writing consultants](#).
- Consultants assist with all stages of the writing process
- Appointments can be made at mvcc.edu/learning-commons or by calling 315-792-5517.

MVCC Foundation scholarships | Due Nov. 15th & Apr. 1st

- **Angela Marken**
 - amarken@mvcc.edu
 - [315-792-5555](tel:315-792-5555)
 - PH220
 - www.mvcc.edu/scholarships

Transfer planning

- **Student Support Advisors**
 - 315-731-5710
 - PH104b

Career planning

- **Career Development Center**
 - 315.731.5847
 - ACC102

PTK Chapter advisors can provide information about PTK opportunities, resources, and activities.

- **Lizabeth Doherty, Coordinator of Career Services**
 - ldoherty@mvcc.edu
 - [315-792-5377](tel:315-792-5377) | ACC102
- **Stephen Frisbee, Director of College Libraries**
 - sfrisbee@mvcc.edu
 - [315-792-5399](tel:315-792-5399) | PH203A
- **Assistant Professor Sam McManus**
 - smcmanus@mvcc.edu
 - [315-792-5344](tel:315-792-5344) | PH327
- **Assistant Professor Lorin Williams**
 - llwilliams2@mvcc.edu
 - [315-792-5443](tel:315-792-5443) | PH355



SCHOLARSHIP SOURCES

- [PHI THETA KAPPA SCHOLARSHIPS](#)
- [PTK CONNECT](#)
- [MVCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- [Recommendation Request for transfer pathway](#)
- [Recommendation Request for workforce-bound students](#)
- [Scholarship resume guidelines and worksheet](#)
- [PTK Scholarship Library](#)
- [PTK YouTube channel](#)