



Frequently Asked Questions for Pi Kappa Alpha Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Q: I just received my scholarship check. What should I do first?

Take the check to your institution's financial office. This office is commonly known as the Bursar's Office, the Student Accounts Office, or the Office of Student Billing. Your check will require a signature from a university or college co-signer and cannot be deposited without it. Once signed, the financial office will apply the funds directly to your student account.

Q: Do I need to thank the donor?

Yes. If the Foundation is able to facilitate a connection, send a personal note to the donor or donors who funded your scholarship. A handwritten note is especially meaningful, particularly for scholarships funded by one or a small group of alumni rather than a general fund. Be specific about what the scholarship means to you and what it is helping you pursue this year, rather than sending a general note of appreciation. If the scholarship is in memory of an alum, be sure to mention their name and that you're honored to receive the scholarship in their memory and that their legacy lives on through the impact of this award. Feel free to include your contact information (address, email, phone number) as the donor may want to write/speak with you after receiving your thank you note.

Q: What should I say if I am asked to give an acceptance speech?

With some scholarships, you may be asked to say a few words at a chapter or alumni event. Be sure to thank the donors who fund the scholarship and acknowledge their support. If the scholarship is in memory of an alum, be sure to mention their name and that you're honored to receive the scholarship in their memory and that their legacy lives through the impact of this award. If there is anyone else, you'd like to thank/acknowledge (parents, chapter advisor, chapter brothers, etc.) Be sure to mention why this scholarship is impactful to you (you're honored for the recognition; it will help with your college expenses, etc.). You can also share your own story of earning the award, which can help inspire future Pikes to apply. If there are time requirements, be sure to stay within those limits and do not go long. Practice your speech a couple times in advance so it comes off polished and natural.

Q: Is the scholarship taxable?

It depends on how the funds are used. Amounts applied to tuition, required fees, and required course materials are generally tax-free. Amounts used for room, board, travel, or other living expenses may be considered taxable income. Every student's situation is different, so we recommend consulting a tax professional or your school's financial aid office rather than assuming either way.



Q: Do I need to submit anything after receiving the funds?

The Pi Kappa Alpha Foundation likes to highlight our scholarship winners. We ask that you provide a photo and a short quote about what the scholarship means to you through the link below: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/110712-Pi-Kappa-Alpha>

Q: What if my chapter has a PIKE University-specific support scholarship?

If your scholarship provides assistance for a PIKE University event, such as registration or lodging, reach out to scholarships@pikes.org for guidance. As a general rule, book your expenses using the chapter card, and the scholarship funds will be issued as a reimbursement to the chapter.

Q: Is this a one-time scholarship?

Yes. The scholarship is a one-time payment applied to your student bill. It will not recur unless you apply and are selected again.

Q: Can I apply for multiple scholarships?

Yes. As long as you meet the requirements for each one, there is no limit to how many scholarships you can apply for.

Q: What expenses does a scholarship through the PIKE Foundation cover?

Scholarships are traditionally applied directly to your tuition and anything associated with your student bill. This can include books, university-sponsored room and board, and other required fees. If it appears on your student bill, the scholarship will cover it.

Q: What is the difference between a Chapter Endowment Fund and a Designated Scholarship?

The Chapter Endowment Fund provides grants to your chapter's PIKE University Scholarship Fund, which is used to offset the registration cost of a conference. A Designated Fund is a privately funded account supported by one or multiple alumni that are designed to support students in a variety of ways, mainly with tuition assistance and PIKE University attendance.