

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of PA Annual Scholarships

To avoid any confusion or misunderstanding, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Pennsylvania offers two (2) different scholarships annually. The scholarship awards have been established to support current and, hopefully, future members of the Order. Each award provides up to \$3,000 and is granted based on academic achievement, financial need, and leadership. Our goal is to help you pursue your dreams and earn a degree beyond high school.

Applicant information (Rules & Application) for both scholarships is available on the website: "glpaioof.org." (Note: These scholarships are NOT to be confused with the "Odd Fellow-Rebekah of Pennsylvania Scholarship Program," which is chaired by Thomas J. McHugh, PGM.)

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Pennsylvania Scholarship (undergraduate) is presented to up to six (6) recipients (\$3,000 each) attending full-time at an accredited college/university or technical/trade school to assist them financially in attaining an undergraduate degree or an associate's degree. The applicant must have completed at least one year of full-time enrollment and must be a member of the IOOF or Rebekahs of PA, or be the son/daughter or stepson/stepdaughter of a living member. All areas of concentration are considered. An "Application" and "Rules" for the Award are available at the beginning of April of each year. Notification of this Award is also submitted for publication in the April-June issues of the *Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine*. The application window runs from April through June, with an application deadline around late June of the same year. Recipients are then notified before the start of the fall semester. The "Application" and "Rules" for this award are available online (glpaioof.org) or can be requested by mail at the address listed in the magazine.

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Pennsylvania "Graduate Scholarship" is presented to up to four (4) recipients. A maximum award of \$3000 will be decided based on whether the applicant is enrolled full-time or part-time, as well as the number of credits completed and currently in progress. The applicant must be a member of the IOOF or Rebekahs of PA, or be the son/daughter or stepson/stepdaughter of a living member and be enrolled in a graduate program at an accredited college/university. The goal is to support deserving applicants in securing a post-baccalaureate or graduate-level degree requiring more than the usual four (4) years of undergraduate studies to complete (i.e. Physician Assistant (PA), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), etc.) or continuing their education beyond the undergraduate (4 yrs.) college level toward an advanced degree (i.e. Masters in Education (M.Ed), Masters in Music (MM), etc.). All areas of concentration are considered. The applicant must be a member of the IOOF or Rebekahs of PA, or be the son/daughter or stepson/stepdaughter of a living member. Notification of this Award is submitted for publication in the Sept.-Nov. issues of the *Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine*. You can find the "Application" and "Rules" for this Award online (glpaioof.org) or request them by mail at the address listed in the magazine. The application deadline is around mid-to-late November. The recipients are then notified around the end of December.

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Pennsylvania

2026 Graduate Scholarship Award Rules

1. Award Purpose & Funding: Three scholarship awards have been established to assist present and future members of the Order. A maximum award of \$4,000 will be determined based on whether the applicant is full-time or part-time, as well as the number of credits completed and currently in progress. The goal is to support deserving applicants in securing a post-baccalaureate or graduate-level degree (Master's, Doctorate, or Professional degree beyond an undergraduate Bachelor's degree. Selection is based on financial need, scholarship, and leadership.

2. Eligibility:

Membership Status: The applicant must be a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows or Rebekahs of Pennsylvania, or be the son/daughter or stepson/stepdaughter of a living member.

Academic Status: Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate or post-baccalaureate degree program at an accredited college or university. All areas of concentration are eligible.

Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

Option A (Conferred Degree): A college graduate who has earned a Bachelor's degree and is continuing their education toward an advanced degree (e.g., Master's, Ph.D., Ed.D., M.Ed., M.M., etc.) **or**

Option B (Accelerated / Direct-Entry Track): A student enrolled in an accelerated or integrated multi-year professional degree program requiring study beyond the traditional 4-year undergraduate level (e.g., Doctor of Physical Therapy D.P.T., Doctor of Pharmacy [Pharm.D.], Physician Assistant [P.A.], or 5-year combined Bachelor's/Master's programs).

Applicants in these direct-entry programs qualify for the Graduate Scholarship once they enter the graduate/professional phase of their curriculum (typically Year 4 or 5), even if a separate Bachelor's degree is not conferred.

Note on Past Applicants/Recipients: Past applicants and recipients of the former Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania Scholarship Award (undergraduate or graduate) are encouraged to apply. However, beginning with the 2026 Graduate Program, an applicant may only receive a Graduate Scholarship **once**.

3. Application Requirements: Applicant must complete all requested information on the application and provide:

a) Recommendation Letters: Two (2) written recommendations from:

- i. College/University faculty member(s), advisor(s), etc. and/or
- ii. Representative(s) of a community service organization

Note: When requesting recommendation letters, please inform your recommenders that a Scholarship Committee member may contact them for verification using the contact details provided on your application.)

b) Transcripts: Official transcripts confirming academic standing:

For incoming/first-year graduate students: Final undergraduate transcripts showing a conferred bachelor's degree.

For continuing graduate students: Current graduate transcripts showing completed coursework.

c) Financial Information: Copies of IRS W-2 forms for both the family and the applicant, along with documentation of any other financial aid, grants, scholarships, or awards currently or previously received. (Supporting tax return schedules are not required.)

d) Personal Circumstances: Statements detailing any unusual family or personal circumstances that warrant special consideration regarding financial need..

4. Institutional Information: Applicants must be enrolled as graduate students and provide the name, address, and contact information of their current college or university.

5. Academic Standing: Applicants must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale on their most recent transcript (undergraduate transcript for first-year graduate students, or current graduate transcript for returning students.)

6. Use of Award Funds: The award must be applied toward tuition, the purchase of books/supplies, or room and board. Depending on circumstances, the award check will be sent directly to the recipient's college or university unless another arrangement is explicitly approved.

7. Community Engagement: Applicants should be active participants in community and church-related functions.

8. Essay Requirements: Applicant must submit a typed or printed essay of at least 500 words answering the following prompt:

"What makes you a unique and deserving candidate for this scholarship? Beyond academic achievements, describe a specific attribute, talent, or experience that sets you apart from others. How do your values and aspirations align with the mission of the Odd Fellows/Rebekahs organization, and how do you see yourself contributing to those values as a scholarship recipient?"

- 9. Interview Requirement:** Applicants must be willing to appear before the Association's Board of Directors or the Scholarship Award Committee, if requested.
- 10. Media Release:** Recipients consent to having photographs taken during the award presentation for use by the committee and representatives of the Association.
- 11. Reapplication:** Applicants who do not receive the 2026 Scholarship Award are eligible to reapply during the following year.
- 12. Deadline:** Applications must be postmarked by Saturday, November 21, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- 13. Selection Process:** The Graduate Scholarship Award Committee retains sole responsibility for selecting the award recipients based on these guidelines.

Photo & Submission Instructions:

Photo Submission: Please submit an inexpensive, recent photograph of yourself for potential publication in the Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine. To avoid copyright issues, do not submit professional studio portraits.

Notification: Award recipients will be notified shortly after the Association's Board meeting in December 2026. Results will be submitted for publication in the January or February issue of the "*Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine*."

Please mail the completed application packet and all required materials to:

Mr. Robert Grant
OF & RA of PA Scholarship
40 Cypress Way
Charleroi, PA 15022-3331

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Pennsylvania 2026 Graduate Scholarship Award Application

(Please print/type all information.)

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Social Security # (last 4 digits): _____

Telephone: Home: _____ School: _____ Cell: _____

IOOF or Rebekah Member: Yes / No

If Yes: Lodge Name: _____ Lodge #: _____

Address: _____

IOOF or Rebekah Member: Father and/or Mother (Circle)

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell : _____

Lodge Name: _____ Lodge #: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell: _____

Lodge Name: _____ Lodge #: _____

List: A. Community Service(s):

B. Church Related Participation:

College/University Attending: Name: _____

Address: _____

Major or Area of Concentration: _____

Student Accounts/ Bursar's Office Address:

Telephone #: _____

Student ID #: _____

Year of College/University Graduation (undergraduate): _____

Number of Graduate Credits Completed: _____

Number of Graduate Credits Remaining: _____

Number of Graduate Credits Presently Taking: _____ Next term: _____

List two (2) recommendations (not relatives) with address and phone number included. (Don't forget to submit each recommendation.)

Name

Address

Phone #

To the best of knowledge, I certify that the information provided is complete and accurate.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Note: Remember to enclose with this application the items requested in Rule #3, along with a separate sheet having your essay. Also, the application deadline is Nov. 21, 2026; please submit an inexpensive recent photograph of yourself. Your photograph may be reproduced in the Pennsylvania Odd Fellow and Rebekah Magazine. To avoid copyright issues, please do not use a professional picture.

Please mail application and enclosures to

Robert Grant
OF & RA of PA Scholarship
40 Cypress Way
Charleroi, PA 15022-3331