MARIPOSA
FOUNDATION

MARIPOSA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Mariposa Foundation Scholarship. The Mariposa Foundation supports women in Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St. Mary Parishes who are turning to education to rebuild their lives after divorce, the loss of a spouse, or another life-altering event.

We believe education is one of the strongest paths to a new beginning. That is why this scholarship offers more than tuition help. Every scholar also receives, at no cost, personal development and coaching through the foundation, with support in wellness, finances, and spiritual growth along the way.

Each scholar receives **$500 per semester** (Spring and Fall) for as long as she meets the requirements below. The award begins after she completes three months of coaching with the foundation, and it can be used for tuition, books, or child care, always paid directly to the school or provider. Our Scholarship Committee reviews every application with care and in confidence.

We look forward to learning your story.

With hope,
Alicia Garza, MBA
Founder and CEO, The Mariposa Foundation

AWARD DETAILS

AMOUNT:	$500 per semester (Spring and Fall)
PAID TO:	Directly to the institution — the school, its bookstore, or a licensed child care provider. Never paid to the student.
COVERS:	Tuition and fees, books and required course materials, or child care while attending school
LENGTH:	Renewable each semester while requirements are met, up to 6 semesters
INCLUDED AT NO COST:	The 6-month Mariposa Journey coaching program, a $5,000 value, plus ongoing monthly coaching while enrolled. You will never be billed for coaching, and you will not owe anything if you leave the program.

The scholarship can be combined with other aid, such as federal Pell Grants or the M.J. Foster Promise Program. Applicants are encouraged to complete the FAFSA.



No guarantee of award.
Application does not guarantee a scholarship. Not all applicants will qualify, and the number of awards depends on available funds. All award decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS — *— To apply, you must:*

1. Be a woman, 18 years of age or older.
2. Live in Terrebonne, Lafourche, or St. Mary Parish.
3. Have experienced divorce, the death of a spouse or partner, or another life-altering event (for example: leaving an unsafe relationship, job loss, serious illness or injury, the loss of a child, or displacement from a disaster).
4. Be enrolled in, accepted to, or willing to enroll in an eligible program: an accredited college, university, community or technical college, or a certificate or high school equivalence (Hiset) program. Online programs qualify if the school is accredited.
5. Agree to complete the program commitment described below.

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

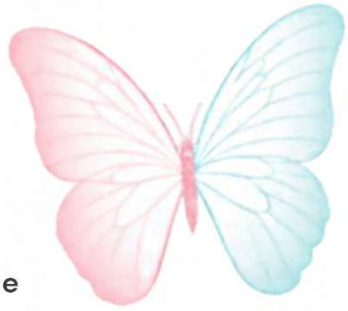
Every scholar takes part in personal development and coaching with the foundation. This support is part of the scholarship, at no cost to you, and keeps you on track to finish your program.

1. **Three months of coaching first.** Scholarship funds are released after you complete your first three months of weekly coaching sessions, held live on Zoom as part of the Mariposa Journey program.
2. **Finish the 6-month program.** In months four through six, the Mariposa Journey meets every two weeks.
3. **Monthly coaching while you are in school.** After the 6-month program, you will meet for coaching or mentoring once a month, on Zoom, for as long as you receive the scholarship. If you need more support, or the foundation determines more support is needed, sessions move to every two weeks. These meetings are required for accountability.
4. **Participation is required.** Attend every session on time with your camera on, from a private, quiet space. If an emergency keeps you away, notify the foundation before the session to arrange a make-up.
5. **What you need:** a phone, tablet, or computer with a camera, and reliable internet. If this is a barrier, tell us in your application; it will not count against you.

HOW TO APPLY

for the semester you are applying for: Spring or Fall

- [ ] **Online application form at www.themariposafoundation.com**
- [ ] **Personal statement (at least 500 words)**
- [ ] **Household and financial information form**
- [ ] **Two letters of recommendation**
- [ ] **Proof of enrollment or acceptance**
- [ ] **Most recent transcript or grade report (if applicable)**
- [ ] **Proof of parish residence (a utility bill, lease, or driver's license showing your address)**
- [ ] **Documentation of your life-altering event.**



PERSONAL STATEMENT

Write at least 500 words, typed and double-spaced. Write in your own voice — think of it as a journal entry to the committee. Please proofread before you submit.

Answer these questions:

1. What life-altering event brought you to this point, and how has it changed your life?
2. What program are you enrolled in, and why did you choose it?
3. What are your career goals, and how will this education help you reach them?
4. What have you achieved so far, in school, work, family, or your community?
5. How are you involved in your community?
6. How will the scholarship and coaching help you finish your program?

HOUSEHOLD AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This information is collected on a separate, confidential form, not in your personal statement. It helps the committee understand your needs and is seen only by the Scholarship Committee.

- **Current living arrangement**
- **Household size and number of dependent children**
- **Child care needs while attending school**
- **Monthly household income (all sources)**
- **Current employment and work history**
- **Other financial aid or scholarships received or applied for.**

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Submit two letters. At least one must come from someone who is not a family member.

Letter 1: a teacher, instructor, academic advisor, employer, or supervisor. A close friend may substitute if none of these apply.

Letter 2: a member of your parish community, such as a pastor, mentor, volunteer leader, or community organization staff member.

Each recommender should answer:

1. How long and in what role have you known the applicant?
2. What strengths and qualifications does she bring to her educational goals?
3. How likely is she to complete her program, and why?
4. Is there anything else the committee should know about her?

Letters should include the writer's name, phone number, and email, and may be emailed directly to the foundation at info@themariposafoundation.com.

DOCUMENTATION OF YOUR LIFE-ALTERING EVENT

Provide one document that shows the event. You may black out account numbers, Social Security numbers, and any details unrelated to the event. Divorce: divorce decree or filing. Death of a spouse or partner: death certificate or obituary. Other events: a letter on letterhead from a professional who knows your situation, such as a counselor, pastor, caseworker, doctor, attorney, or advocate. If providing documents would put your safety at risk, contact the foundation privately; a confidential letter from an advocate is accepted instead, or other arrangements can be made.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All application materials are kept confidential, seen only by the Scholarship Committee, and never shared or published without your written permission.

SELECTION AND AWARD

1. The Scholarship Committee reviews complete applications after the deadline. Incomplete applications are not reviewed.
2. Finalists may be invited to a short Zoom interview.
3. All applicants are notified of the decision within 30 to 45 days of submission.
4. Scholars sign a Scholarship Agreement and begin the program commitment.
5. After the scholar completes three months of weekly coaching, funds are sent directly to her school or licensed child care provider. She submits an invoice or account statement showing what the award will pay.

KEEPING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP —

To receive the $500 award in each new semester, you must:

Stay enrolled and send proof of enrollment each semester.

Send your grade report at the end of each semester and keep at least a 2.5 GPA / passing grades.

Attend your coaching meetings every two weeks or as required.

Let the foundation know right away if you withdraw, change programs, or change schools.

Send proof of invoice and information.

Then:

If you withdraw from your program, any refund of scholarship funds from the school is returned to the foundation.

If you face a hardship that affects your enrollment, talk with us first; the committee will work with you.

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

By signing, I confirm that: The information in my application is true and complete. I agree to complete three months of weekly coaching before funds are released, and to attend coaching every two weeks after that. I allow the foundation to confirm my enrollment and grades with my school. I understand that my information will be kept confidential, that applying does not guarantee an award, and that my results depend on my own effort and circumstances.

Applicant signature Date

Printed name

The Mariposa Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability in its scholarship program.

DISCLAIMER

No guarantee of award. Submitting an application does not guarantee a scholarship. Not all applicants will qualify, and the number of awards depends on available funds. All award decisions are made by the Scholarship Committee.

Service area. This scholarship and its coaching program are available only to residents of Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St. Mary Parishes, Louisiana. Applications from outside these parishes will not be considered.

Results are not guaranteed. Each woman's outcomes depend on her own effort, choices, and circumstances, not on the foundation. The Mariposa Foundation does not guarantee completion of any academic program, employment, income, or other personal, educational, or career results from the scholarship, coaching, or personal development sessions.

Coaching is not professional advice. Coaching and personal development sessions are not therapy, counseling, medical, legal, or financial advice.

Transforming Lives · Spreading Hope