



# CHESAPEAKE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION *2026 BOB SHILLING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP*

**SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: \$3,000**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MIDNIGHT, Friday, March 20, 2026**

## **ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP:**

The Bob Shilling Memorial Scholarship was established to support **undergraduate** students pursuing a career in journalism. Bob Shilling was a past president of the Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association (CAPBA) and an at-large member of its board. During his 42-year membership, Shilling was a former managing editor of WBFF-TV, where he worked from 1990 to 2008. He was news director at WBAL-AM from 1988 to 1990. He also worked from 1966 to 1985 at WCBM-AM as a reporter and news director. Toward the end of his career, he served as a media specialist with the National Fallen Firefighters Association in Emmitsburg, Maryland, for six years. Bob Shilling was old-school and highly competitive, and he liked getting the story first, but he wanted it right. Shilling died in 2016.

## **Applicants must meet the following criteria:**

- Attend a college or university in Maryland, Delaware or the District of Columbia, or be a resident of Maryland, Delaware or the District of Columbia
- Full-time student with a major in broadcast journalism, journalism, mass communications, digital media or telecommunications
- Full-time students from other majors working toward a career in a journalism-related field who provide evidence of their intention to pursue a journalism-related career with internships, jobs and/or involvement in extracurricular journalism-related fields
- Are an undergrad, enrolled full-time in the 2026 spring semester as a sophomore, junior or senior
- Provide supporting material about internships, jobs and extracurricular activities (letters of recommendation are welcome but are **LIMITED TO TWO**).
- Possess the personal qualities of strong character, integrity, dependability, industriousness, professionalism and compassion—traits which are essential for both journalists and community leaders

## **\*\*\*USE OF AI WITH THE PREPARATION OF THIS APPLICATION:**

While we recognize the importance and growing use of **generative AI** in journalism, we want to hear from you **in your own words** with the required essay. With that in mind, the use of **AI** with this application is limited to the following:

- (1) fact checking
- (2) grammar check
- (3) background research

# **2026 BOB SHILLING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**Please provide ALL information requested below**

**PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY OR PLEASE TYPE!**

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

University/College \_\_\_\_\_

Current year in college (as of the **SPRING 2026** semester) (*circle one*): SOPH JR SR

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_

(Expected) Graduation date \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Description of your 5-year career goals: \_\_\_\_\_

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What will you bring to broadcast journalism? \_\_\_\_\_

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**ESSAY -- (Please refer to the rules regarding the use of AI):**

Write an essay (on a separate page) **of no more than 500 words** addressing the following question:

*With newsrooms now regularly using generative AI to assist with the reporting of stories what kind of guardrails and verification processes would you recommend to combat the growing proliferation of deep fakes, maintain journalistic integrity and ensure the public's trust when it comes to the use of AI.*

**FINAL STEP/CHECK OFF:**

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS AND PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS :**

**1. REQUIRED:**

- \_\_\_ \*\*Essay
- \_\_\_ \*\*Application
- \_\_\_ \*\*Resume
- \_\_\_ \*\*Unofficial transcript

**2. OPTIONAL:**

- \_\_\_ \*\*Letters of recommendation (limited to two)
- \_\_\_ \*\*Links to your work (limited to five)

**3. Please sign the following to indicate you have complied with the rules concerning the use of AI :**

I, (NAME), have complied with the CAPBA rules regarding the use of AI with this scholarship application.

**SUBMIT ALL MATERIALS (and questions) TO:**

Sue Kopen Katcef,  
Scholarship Chair: [umnewsie@gmail.com](mailto:umnewsie@gmail.com)

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**DEADLINE:**

**MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, Friday, March 20**

**Thank you!**

**Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association**

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