

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Alpha Beta Theta Omega Chapter

Scholarship Opportunities

Awarded to students in
Laurel, Jones, Smith
West Jasper, East Jasper,
and Covington county
school districts ONLY.
Incomplete and late applications
will not be accepted.



4 scholarships



Application Period

March 17, 2026 – May 7, 2026

For additional information

Sonya.Varnell@usm.edu

Mail Scholarship Packet
to
P.O. Box 1493
Laurel, MS 39440

or call
Ms. Sonya Varnell

601-297-1434

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated[®] Alpha Beta Theta Omega Chapter

2025-2026

Academic Scholarship Application



High School Seniors in Laurel City Schools,
Covington, Jasper, Jones and Smith Counties

Alpha Beta Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. proudly supports the students' academic achievement in our community. Therefore, we will be awarding four (4) scholarships to students attending a Four-Year University or College during the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

SECTION I: PERSONAL INFORMATION

(To be completed by the Student Applicant graduating from high school in May 2026)
Students MUST be graduating from schools in Covington, Jasper, Jones and Smith counties.

Name: _____ D.O.B. ___/___/___ Sex _____

Ethnicity _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Name of High School: _____ Telephone: _____

Grad. Date: ___/___/___

Name of College or University you plan to attend

Intended Major: _____ Minor: _____

Career Objective: _____

SECTION II: Parent or Guardian Information

To be completed by one (1) of the applicant's parent's or guardian

Name: _____ Address: _____

Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____

I certify that the above information is correct. Signature:

Date: ___/___/___

All information is confidential and will only be used for making the scholarship selection. All scholarship recipients agree to allow Alpha Beta Theta Omega Chapter to use their name, picture and information in the promotion of these scholarships as deemed appropriate. ABTO will destroy all supporting information after the awarding of scholarship.

2025-2026 Scholarship Application

SECTION III: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Personal & Parent's Information (Sections I and II)
- Biography (Typed, single spaced, one page maximum)
- Photo (no selfie, photo will NOT be returned)
- Letter of Recommendation on School Letterhead: School Counselor or Teacher
- **An OFFICIAL copy of student's High School Transcript inclusive of 3rd term grades (in envelope, sealed and signed across seal by school counselor)**
- A copy of your official acceptance/admission letter from your college/university
- A copy of ACT or SAT Test Scores
- List of Awards and Honors
- List of Extracurricular Activities
- Summary of Community Involvement Activities with hours stated and signed by supervisor
- A Personal Essay (Typed, double spaced, two pages maximum, No AI generated essays (essays will be cross referenced))

Select ONE of the topics listed below:

- A. Social media plays a vital role in connecting teens across the globe. As a responsible citizen, discuss the risk of social media and its' impact on peer pressure and self-esteem.
- B. Discuss the stigma surrounding mental health issues in teenagers. How does it affect their willingness to seek help, and what can be done to reduce this stigma?
- C. In your opinion, why does the younger generation not view voting as important? What can be done to change their viewpoint?

SECTION IV: Evaluation Categories

Area of Evaluation	Maximum Points
Essay	30
ACT and/or SAT Score	20
Grade Point Average	20
Extracurricular Activities	12
Awards and Honors	10
Community Service	8

Total Evaluation Points	100
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INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Please review your application packet to make sure you have included all required documents and information prior to mailing it for scoring.

2025-2026 Scholarship Application

SECTION V: Important Scholarship Dates

- Information Session | Monday, March 16 at 8:30 p.m. | zoom link on our website | www.akaabto.com
- Applications Available | Tuesday, March 17 at 12:00 p.m. | www.akaabto.com
- Workshops (**required attendance**) | Thu., March 26 at 7 p.m. | Family Health Center, 117 S. 11th Ave, Laurel
- Greek Tea (**required attendance**) | Thursday, April 9 at 7 p.m. | zoom link on our website | www.akabto.com
- Applications Due | Postmarked no later than May 7, 2026 | see below for mailing instructions
- Review of Applications | Monday, May 18, 2026
- Winners Announced | Wednesday, May 20, 2026 | www.akaabto.com
- *Reception (**required attendance**) | Saturday, June 6 at 4:00 p.m. | Invitation will be sent to winners

Mail complete application packets to include all Documents in Section III to:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Beta Theta Omega Chapter

Attention: Sonya Varnell, Scholarship Chair

P. O. Box 1493

Laurel, MS 39440

*Note: Scholarships will be awarded at Alpha Beta Theta Omega Scholarship Reception on **June 6, 2026**
Recipients can invite parents, family, and friends to attend the reception.
Recipients will read their essays at the reception.

SECTION VI: Scholarship Committee Contact Information

Miss Sonya R. Varnell, Chair	601.297.1434	sonya.varnell@usm.edu
Ms. Nikitia Forest-Hollingsworth	301.232.7859	nikitiahforest@yahoo.com
Mrs. Barbara McNair	601.270.4525	barbaramcnair09@gmail.com
Ms. Theresa Miller	601.335.2839	millertheresa597@gmail.com
Mrs. Helen Milloy	601.517.5711	hdmcmi@aol.com
Dr. Terri Smith, President	601.408.9928	territsmith@gmail.com