



BIPOC Scholarship

Racially minority groups in the United States have, throughout history, had lower representation in higher education or certain careers due to structural discrimination and racism. As recently as 2018, college enrollment rates were significantly lower for Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and Pacific Islander or Native/Indigenous Americans in the 18- to 24-year-old age group as for their white counterparts. Moreover, Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic/Latinx college students are more likely than white students to drop out of college.

Financial burden is the top reason students cite dropping out of school in general. This financial burden is often higher for racially minoritized groups. Poverty levels among Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and Indigenous people are significantly higher than the 9% poverty rate among the white population.

The Helena College Scholarship for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) provides financial support to racially minoritized students. This scholarship is available each Spring semester, contingent on available funding, through the Helena College Foundation. Awardees will receive \$500. The scholarship is for Helena College Black students, Indigenous students, and students of color who are enrolled full-time. Students must have successfully completed at least one semester.

Deadline: April 14th, 2023

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Enrolled full-time,
2. Successfully completed at least one semester at Helena College,
3. In good academic standing.

Selection Decision: 3-5 Diversity & Inclusion Committee members will select the awardee; committee will be made up of at least one faculty and one staff.

Application Procedure & Criteria:

1. Must be a BIPOC Helena College student.
2. Complete the application form and return it to the Financial Aid Office on or before the deadline.
3. Complete a 1-2 page essay explaining:
 - a. How will this scholarship assist you in your educational goals?
4. Attach one academic reference form, letters of recommendation can be included, but are optional.

BIPOC Scholarship Application Form

Applicant Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Program of Study _____

References: List the names of two (2) individuals who will write recommendations to accompany this application. **Attach these recommendations to this form in a sealed envelope.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Completed application form
- ☐ 1-2 page essay stating how this will assist you with your educational goals
- ☐ One Academic Reference form (can include letter of recommendation)

The scholarship committee/Helena College may submit a notice of the award to the local newspaper or use the award information in public relations documents. The award information may include your name, program and dollar amount awarded. By signing this form you acknowledge and agree that this information may be disclosed.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Submit completed application and material to Helena College Financial Aid Office at 1115 North Roberts Street, Helena, MT 59601.



Scholarship Reference Form 1 BIPOC Scholarship

SECTION I: To Be Completed by the Applicant

Name _____

Under the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students enrolled at Helena College University of Montana have access to their educational records, including letters of recommendation. However, students may waive their right to see letters of recommendation, and therefore, the letters will be held in confidence. I waive the right to review the reference form.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

SECTION II: To Be Completed By Evaluator

The above named individual is applying for a scholarship through Helena College University of Montana. Please rank the applicant in the categories below by placing an X in the appropriate box. Please return the form as soon as possible to the Financial Aid Office. If an applicant has not signed the waiver above, he or she may request to see the letters of recommendation after the scholarship decision has been made.

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Below Average	Poor	Not Applicable
Ability to Learn						
Integrity						
Leadership Ability						
Perseverance Toward Goals						
Team Member						
Attitude						
Initiative						
Motivation						
Communication Skills						
Organization/Time Management						
Responsibility						
Self-Discipline						

Please use your personal knowledge of the applicant to respond to the following questions:

1. How long have you known the candidate, and in what capacity (employer, school instructor, etc.)

2. Please tell us what you believe to be the applicant's particular strengths in his/her personal, educational or professional life. If you can, give examples of particular accomplishments.

3. What is your knowledge of the applicant's educational goals and his/her progress toward achieving these goals?

4. Is there any additional information we should know about this applicant in regard to this scholarship award?

What is your overall recommendation?

☐ Recommend with Confidence ☐ Recommend ☐ Recommend with Reservations ☐ Do Not Recommend

I may have concerns about this student. Please contact me.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Preferred contact method: ☐ Phone ☐ Email

Evaluator's Name _____

Organization/Institution/Department _____

Title _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Signature of Evaluator _____ Date _____