

All-USA Scholarship Fall 2018: Summary & Instructions

What is the All-USA Scholarship?

- The All-USA Academic Team Scholarship is a merit award based on your accomplishments while pursuing your associate degree or certificate
- It is a national scholarship sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the honor society for two-year colleges
- The amount of the awards varies, but can be up to \$5,000
- Four students from our college will be nominated for the scholarship: two who are pursuing an associate degree or certificate, and two who are planning on pursuing a bachelor's degree
- Application is due by November 15, 2018, 3:00pm PST
- For complete information, instructions, and application, go to ptk.org/scholarships

Which students are eligible?

- Pursuing an associate degree, certificate, or intend to transfer to a bachelor's degree program
- Have minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA (on all college-level courses completed in last five years)
- Be enrolled at LWTech through Dec. 2018 in a minimum of 9 college-level credits
- By December 2018:
 - Students pursuing bachelor's degrees must have completed at least 54 quarter college-level credits
 - Students pursuing an associate degree or certificate must have completed at least 9 quarter college-level credits
- Hold permanent or temporary residence in the U.S., or possess a visa considered appropriate by the college
- Have a college record free of suspension, probation or other disciplinary action

How can you have a competitive application?

- Start early, take your time, ask for help, and proofread everything!
- Review all required components of application ahead of time (see other side of this document)
- Get assistance with proofreading, editing, and reviewing your application answers
- Ask someone now to provide your recommendation letter and give them all necessary information
- Tell the story of you – let the scholarship committee see who you are and why you are an outstanding student

When should you start your application?

Table 1 Suggested Timeline for Completing Application

What	Complete On or By	Tips
Review application requirements	Immediately	Go to online application and review
Start drafts of essay and other answers	10/22/2018	
Ask someone to provide your Letter of Recommendation	10/22/2018	Give your recommender all the requirements & tell them when you need the letter by
Have someone help you with a first review/edit of your essays and answers	10/29/2018	Ask a teacher, use the Learning Lab, Supplemental Instruction, or ask friend or family member
Have someone help you with a second review/edit of your essays and answers	11/5/2018	
Provide "Significant Endeavor" essay to the person writing your Letter of Recommendation	11/6/2018	
Receive completed Letter of Recommendation	11/12/2018	Thank your recommender!
Do a final review/edit of your essay, answers, and other application materials	11/12/2018	Have someone review with you

What	Complete On or By	Tips
Input all information into online application, review one more time for any errors or missing information	11/13/2018	Even the smallest error can make a big difference for your chances!
Submit completed application online	11/14/2018	Due online by November 15 at 3pm

Components of Online Application:

1. Essay (*up to 500 words*)

a. *Significant Endeavor Essay*

- i. Describe your most significant endeavor since attending college in which you applied your academic or intellectual skills learned during your college experience to benefit your school, community or society.
- ii. This endeavor may be in community/service learning, in research, in the arts, advocacy, public affairs, etc.
- iii. Judges consider originality, initiative, degree of difficulty, results and benefit to society.
- iv. Consider using measurable terms, steps taken and quantifying the outcome using impact data and numbers.
- v. Limit your essay to ONE specific endeavor.

2. 2-3 Paragraph Answers (*up to 250 words each*)

a. *What motivates you to succeed?*

- i. Who you are is intricately linked to past experiences and who you've known. Thinking about your life and your experiences, explain what motivates you to succeed and who you are now.

b. *What is your career goal?*

3. Volunteer Experience (*up to 250 words each*)

a. *Up to three volunteer activities you've been involved in since enrolling in college (up to 100 words each)*

- i. Describe participation, activities, duties, and impact

b. *Involvement in volunteerism (2-3 paragraphs - up to 250 words)*

- i. What has your current involvement in volunteerism taught you?

4. Recommendation Letter

a. *One Letter of Recommendation*

- i. The letter of recommendation should be completed by a faculty member, administrator, dean, or an employer or professional at an organization where you have volunteered.
- ii. This letter should speak to leadership and showcase specific examples of how you have demonstrated leadership abilities, service involvement, and impact outside the classroom.
- iii. This recommendation should specifically address the leadership example you discussed in your "significant endeavor" essay. You should provide your recommender with a copy of this essay.
- iv. Failure to provide a leadership example and commentary on the essay response may make your scholarship application less competitive.

5. Special Circumstances (*OPTIONAL*)

a. *Special Circumstances (up to 100 words)*

- i. If there are any special circumstances or information about yourself not elicited elsewhere in the application that you would like PTK to be aware of, provide a brief description here.
- ii. May include: explanation for Withdrawals or low grades on transcripts, other circumstances that affected parts of your application, etc.

6. Phi Theta Kappa Experience (*OPTIONAL*)

This is not required, but if you are a member of PTK you may be eligible for an additional scholarship.

a. *Up to three PTK activities you've been involved in (up to 150 words each)*

- i. Describe participation, activities, duties, and impact

b. *Impact of your Phi Theta Kappa membership (2-3 paragraphs - up to 250 words)*

- i. You may write about an activity you led or participated in, a leadership role you sought out or accepted, a need you identified in your community, any initiatives you may have been responsible for or other event that was meaningful to you.

7. Financial Need (*OPTIONAL*)

This is not required, but if you experienced an unanticipated event in the past 6 months that presented a financial barrier to your education you may be eligible for an additional scholarship.

a. Unanticipated event (up to 200 words)

- i. Define and discuss the unanticipated event that has presented the financial barrier that you are currently facing.

b. How scholarship would assist you (up to 150 words)

- i. How would receiving a scholarship impact your educational goals?