



REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING FOR AN ESTARL AWARD EASTERN STAR TRAINING AWARD FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ESTARL is to assist deserving students, who are legal residents of the State of Florida, pursuing some field of religious leadership role. Preference is given to a Junior or Senior enrolled in an accredited college or seminary Undergraduate Program or Masters Program on a full time basis. **Full time is defined for undergraduate classes as a minimum of nine (9) credit hours per semester. Full time for Masters programs is also defined as a minimum of nine (9) credit hours per semester. Labs will count towards credit hours per semester.** The applicant must be of good moral character, in need of financial assistance and have a **minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 per semester.** The applicant need not be of Masonic or Eastern Star affiliation.

Applicants must send a written request to a Florida Eastern Star Chapter requesting their sponsorship for the ESTARL Award. This should be sent with ample time to provide the Chapter time to act upon the request. Our Chapters meet once or twice a month and sponsorship requires a vote of the Chapter. The Chapter will send a **letter under seal, signed by both the Worthy Matron and Secretary to the ESTARL Chairman.**

Applicants must send a letter to the Main Committee Chairman requesting the ESTARL Award and Application for ESTARL Award completed in its entirety. Applicants should also include a projection of their expected income, cost of expected living expenses, and all school costs including tuition lab fees and books. In addition, the completed Application, a recent picture and letters of recommendation listed below, together with the most current transcripts must accompany the request and be sent directly to the CHAIRMAN of ESTARL.

Three letters of recommendation are required:

1. A letter from the applicant's minister on church letterhead.
2. A letter from a teacher or professor of a school the applicant has or is attending on school letterhead.
3. A letter from someone who knows the applicant well, knows of his/her need of financial aid and his/her dedication in pursuing his/her goal of full-time Christian leadership.

Finally, the Applicant must request an Official Transcript or grade report of the last completed semester's grades. If you are currently in school, the transcript should be of the semester you are now attending. This should be sent directly to the Chairman of ESTARL. We realize that our committee meetings do not coincide with the semesters, but please arrange to have your school forward a transcript to us as soon as it becomes available. Due to the school's timetable, **this is the only document we will accept after the deadline.**

The Committee is not at liberty to act on any application until **ALL requirements are met and ALL materials are received**. In preparing your application, keep in mind that the deadline for the Fall Semester is June 1st and the deadline for the Spring semester is December 1st. **All applications must be postmarked by these dates. with the exception of the transcripts. All incomplete or late files will be denied.**

The amount of the award will be based on the amount available in the Fund, however, once an award is made to a student, it shall not be reduced except for good cause and after notice has been given to the student. The money is issued primarily for tuition, but may be used for books or on campus room and board. Applicant will be eligible for awards up **to five years or ten grants** contingent upon continuing financial need, academic standing and available funds. All funds will be sent directly by The Grand Chapter of Florida to the college/seminary selected by the Applicant.

We trust the above information will help to clarify some of the information we must have to process your request. We consider it a privilege to invest in the future of those who are answering the call to Christian service.

May the Lord continue to bless you in your Christian commitment.

Check List (Applicant's responsibility)

- A letter to Local Chapter requesting scholarship for the ESTARL Award.
- Completed application package to Main Committee Chairman which must include:
 - Letter of Request
 - Name and address of School will be attending
 - Field of Religious Service
 - List of all Church, school and civic activities
 - Projected or expected income and expenses (see page 1 para 3)
 - Letter from Minister on church letterhead
 - Letter from Teacher or Professor on school letterhead
 - Letter from Person who knows you well (see page 1 number 3)
 - Current Photo

ALL ABOVE ITEMS TO BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1 FOR FALL SEMESTER AND DECEMBER 1 FOR SPRING SEMESTER. ** Only exception will be the transcripts. Anything else late will mean automatic disqualification.

- Official Transcript with last completed semester grades to be sent directly to Chairman
- Letter from Local Chapter (to be sent directly to Chairman)

Note: The State Chairman changes yearly in April. Please refer to the Grand Chapter website at floridaoes.org
Click on the Florida OES Charities tab on the left; Click on Florida OES ESTARL.

<http://www.floridaoes.org/HTM/estarl.htm>