



The PEARL Foundation, Incorporated

in collaboration with

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

Rho Zeta Omega Chapter  
Marietta, Georgia

# 2020-2021 Scholarship Application

For additional information contact:

The Scholarship Committee at  
[pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com)

The PEARL Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for Georgians by providing education initiatives that promote self-reliance, self-empowerment and self-determination. **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated**<sup>®</sup>, the first African American Greek letter sorority, was founded on a mission comprised of five basic tenets that have remained unchanged since the sorority's inception more than a century ago. Alpha Kappa Alpha's mission is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind". The international sorority has grown to over 1,000 undergraduate and alumnae chapters focusing on academic excellence and community service. The PEARL Foundation Inc. collaborates with Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Rho Zeta Omega chapter to sponsor programs serving the Cobb County/Marietta, Georgia community.

In keeping with one of our basic tenets which is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, The PEARL Foundation, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Rho Zeta Omega Chapter will offer several academic scholarships to advance the education of African American females who are graduating seniors of Cobb County or Marietta City high schools for the upcoming academic year.

There are **TWO** scholarship categories. There will be **MULTIPLE AWARDS** given for **The PEARL Foundation** scholarship category and **ONE** scholarship given for the **The Mae Carter Danzy Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Scholarship** category. If you plan to apply to an **HBCU**, we encourage you to write an essay for **BOTH** scholarships. An applicant is only eligible to receive one scholarship award, to be determined by the Scholarship Committee.

### **1) The PEARL Foundation Scholarship**

There will be multiple awards in this category. These scholarships will be awarded to applicants who will attend **ANY** four-year college or university. Please submit a PEARL essay regardless of what college or university you consider attending.

### **2) The Mae Carter Danzy Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Scholarship**

This scholarship will be awarded to an applicant who will attend a Historically Black College or University. Mrs. Danzy was the person who led the vision of chartering Rho Zeta Omega in Cobb County and served as the chapter's first president. She was a proud graduate of Spelman College (1970) and Clark Atlanta University (1972). Please submit an HBCU essay if attending an HBCU is a consideration.

### **Applicants for both scholarships must meet the following criteria:**

- Must be an African American female who resides in Cobb County
- Must attend a Cobb County public or private high school or Marietta High School
- Must be in the graduating class of 2021
- Must be a United States Citizen
- Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Must have demonstrated leadership in the school and community
- Must have participated in community service projects
- Qualified applicants must participate in a virtual panel interview in March 2021.

**Applications must contain:**

- Completed online application (**Must be typed**)
- Resume
- Headshot
- High school transcript (uploaded by the school to [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com))
- ACT (composite score) and/or SAT (total score)
- Two letters of recommendation (completed by school official, church/community leader)
- Signed Acceptance Statement
- Signed Certifications page
- A 500-word essay on the topic (s) listed below. The essay must be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman Font. **If you are applying for both scholarships, you must submit two separate essays.** An applicant is only eligible to receive one scholarship award, to be determined by the Scholarship Committee.

**The PEARL Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Topic**  
(Choose One)

1. In her acceptance speech for the position of Vice-President, Kamala Harris boldly stated "Black women are the backbone of our democracy." Harris' comment sparked nationwide discussion about Black women's roles in community and political organizing. Why is it important for Black women to be represented as leaders and organizers of change in our communities?
  
2. Many contemporary female rappers and entertainers have utilized their platforms on social media and in hip hop to speak directly to the needs and desires of Black women and girls. What role(s) does hip hop play in representing the experiences of young Black women and girls? What are the strengths? What are the weaknesses?

**Mae Carter Dany HBCU Scholarship Topic**

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have the distinction of affording African American students the opportunity to pursue higher education when virtually no other colleges in the United States would. Given the 21st century African American students now have the option to attend whichever college/university for which they meet admissions requirements, why do you believe HBCUs remain essential to preparing African American students for success?

**A completed application and supporting materials must be uploaded by 11:59 pm, Wednesday, February 24, 2021. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend a virtual Skills Development Workshop presented by Rho Zeta Omega Chapter scheduled for **Saturday, January 30, 2021**. Those who plan to attend must RSVP at [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com) with your name and cell phone number no later than **Wednesday, January 27, 2021**. More information on the workshop along with the time and location will be announced on our website.

Gloria Nichols  
President, The PEARL Foundation, Inc.

Angela Sumbry  
President, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
Rho Zeta Omega Chapter

# APPLICATION CHECKLIST\*

- One complete application package that includes ALL supporting materials must be uploaded, no later than **11:59pm, Wednesday, February 24, 2021. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- References and an official high school transcript must be uploaded to [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com) no later than **11:59pm, Wednesday, February 24, 2021. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- An application that is missing items will be considered incomplete and will not be considered for an award. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Your upload must contain:**
  - Completed application with all required signatures and information
  - Resume
  - ACT (composite score) and/or SAT (total score)
  - A headshot
  - Signed Acceptance Statement
  - Signed Certifications page
  - A 500-word essay on at least one of the topics listed. The essay must be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Don't forget to:**
  - RSVP for the Skills Development Workshop no later than January 27, 2021, that will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com)
  - Remind the persons submitting references that their forms or reference letters must be uploaded by the Wednesday, February 24, 2021 deadline to [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com)
  - Remind your School Counselor that your transcript must be uploaded by the February 24, 2021 deadline to [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com)

What are the DO's and DON'Ts of uploading documents to your application?

**DO:**

- Upload in the correct file format. pdf, .png, jpeg, .jpg,
- Only upload the requested documents.
- Black out any Social Security numbers on the documents you are uploading. This is not required, but advised.

- Name your documents using the following format:

LAST NAME\_FIRST NAME\_ ITEM NAME

*Ex 1:* KEYES\_JANE\_ RESUME

*EX 2:* JONES\_MARY\_ HEADSHOT

*EX 3:* SMITH\_SARAH\_ PEARL ESSAY

**DON'T:**

- Upload more than the requested documentation.
- Upload a document stating you are mailing your documents.
- Assume the required document does not pertain to you. If the application states the document is required, your application will remain incomplete if you do not provide that document.
- Password protect your uploaded documents. Password protected documents will be rejected.

**\*If you are applying for both scholarships make sure to submit two essays (one for PEARL and one for HBCU).**

**\*Submitting the online application confirms that you are uploading all the required documents.**

**All official communication regarding the application process will occur via e-mail. Please ensure the email address provided is accurate. Failure to receive email communication rests solely with the applicant.**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**COLLEGIATE GOALS:** List up to four colleges/universities to which you will apply in order of preference.

		<b>Accepted?</b>	
		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Name: _____	City/State: _____	Y	N
Name: _____	City/State: _____	Y	N
Name: _____	City/State: _____	Y	N
Name: _____	City/State: _____	Y	N

What will be your major area of study? \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (IF APPLICABLE):**

From/To Dates	Company Name	Supervisor	Phone
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**ACADEMIC HISTORY:**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT Composite Score: \_\_\_\_\_ SAT (Critical Reading & Math) Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**LEADERSHIP (SCHOOL, CHURCH, COMMUNITY, OTHER):**

If additional space is needed, include on resume.

Organization/Activity	Leadership Role/Office Held	Dates Involved
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES:** If additional space is needed, include on resume.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**AWARDS, HONORS, RECOGNITION:** Academic, Church, Community, Sports, etc.

If additional space is needed, include on resume.

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**REFERENCES:**

List two references below. References must be a school official or church/community leader. The person submitting your reference cannot be a relative and must submit the recommendation form or letter to [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com) no later than **February 24, 2021**.

Name	Position	Phone
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

What is the date of your high school Awards ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_



# ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT

**Please read and sign:**

If I am awarded a scholarship from The PEARL Foundation, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Rho Zeta Omega Chapter, and I am also awarded any scholarship which fully funds my academic expenses, I agree to withdraw my acceptance of the scholarship awarded by The PEARL Foundation, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Rho Zeta Omega Chapter. If awarded the Mae Carter Danzy HBCU Scholarship, and choose not to attend an HBCU, I agree to withdraw my acceptance of the Mae Carter Danzy Historically Black College and University Scholarship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# CERTIFICATIONS

**Applicant and parent/guardian: Please indicate that you have read and understand and that the following statements are correct, by initialing each statement below and including your original signatures in the spaces allotted.**

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ I certify that all information provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I give the Rho Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. permission to verify any information contained in my information package, as necessary. I understand that misrepresentation of any information or the submission of inaccurate or incomplete information will result in disqualification from consideration for a scholarship or forfeiture of any award that I may receive and there is no appeal process.

I certify that the applicant: (please check all that apply)

- is a resident of Cobb County.
- attends a high school in the Cobb County School District, Marietta High School, or a private school in Cobb county.
- is a high school senior graduating in the class of 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if the applicant is awarded a scholarship, the funds will be sent directly to the college/university once the proper verification forms have been completed and returned to the Rho Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Notice of Possible Use of Your Name, Image, or Likeness

Please be advised that attending and participating in any event associated with Rho Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc., The PEARL Foundation Inc. scholarship may result in the use of your name, image, and/or likeness in printed and electronic material, including but not limited to publication on the World Wide Web, social network sites, in press materials, and in advertising and marketing materials. You hereby specifically release Rho Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and The PEARL Foundation Inc. and its agents from any and all claims arising from the use of your name, image, and/or likeness based on any of the uses stated above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFERENCES

Recommenders can use the attached form or write a letter. Any letters written should be on official letterhead and include the information listed below. If the reference does not have letterhead, please include a physical mailing and email address along with a contact phone number. Failure to supply all information listed will result in applicant receiving a lower score.

- Name and contact information of reference
- Relationship to applicant
- How long reference has known applicant
- Information regarding why applicant should receive the scholarship award

The form or recommendation letter must be submitted to [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com) by **Wednesday, February 24, 2021**.

## RECOMMENDATION FORM

### Section I – To be completed by Applicant

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

**Section II – To be completed by a high school, college, church, or community leader** who knows the applicant well enough to answer questions about her leadership skills. The person completing this section **must not** be related to the applicant.

1. How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In what capacity have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please give your personal appraisal of the applicant:

Category	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Do Not Know
Scholastic achievement					
Community service					
Leadership skills					
Commitment to obtaining a college degree					
Goal setting					
Character and personality					
Initiative and drive					

4. What are the characteristics that make you believe this applicant will be a successful college student?

5. Comment on the applicant's judgment, maturity, morals and values.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED RECOMMENDATION FORM TO [pzoscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:pzoscholarship@gmail.com).**