



the PEARL foundation
People Educating and Reshaping Lives



The PEARL Foundation, Incorporated

in collaboration with

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

Rho Zeta Omega Chapter
Marietta, Georgia

2021-2022 Scholarship Application

For additional information contact:

The PEARL Scholarship Committee at
pzoscholarship@gmail.com

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PEARL Foundation Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

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[®] 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 **PEARL Foundation Inc.** collaborates with **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 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.

PEARL Foundation Scholarships and The Mae Carter Danzy HBCU Scholarship

There are **TWO** scholarship award categories for which an applicant may apply:

1) The **PEARL Foundation Scholarship**

This scholarship will be awarded to **MULTIPLE** applicants and awards in this category begin at **\$2,500**. These scholarships will be awarded to applicants who will attend **ANY** four-year college or university.

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

Mrs. Danzy led the vision of chartering the Rho Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. 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). This scholarship will be awarded to **ONE** applicant who will attend a Historically Black College or University in the amount of **\$5,000**.

3) **Pearls of Courage Scholarship**

The Pearls of Courage Scholarship is a one-time, non-renewable, needs-based scholarship provided to a high achieving African-American female who has demonstrated strength, courage, and tenacity in the face of adversity and has overcome difficult obstacles in pursuit of her academic goals. To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must submit a Statement of Consideration in fifty (50) words or less *in addition to the PEARL essay*. Please address the following:

- 1) A basic profile that tells us who you are
- 2) Your financial situation and/or any hardships
- 3) How you would benefit from this scholarship

PLEASE NOTE: If awarded, you will receive a PEARL Foundation, Inc. scholarship which will not identify that you were a **Pearls of Courage** applicant. This information will remain confidential and may be verified to confirm the award.

Which essay should I write?

<i>If you are applying to:</i>	<i>Apply for this scholarship:</i>	<i>By submitting the following:</i>
<i>An HBCU</i>	<i>Mae Carter Danzy Scholarship</i>	<i>Must Submit HBCU essay</i>
<i>A Non-HBCU</i>	<i>Pearl Foundation Scholarship</i>	<i>Must submit PEARL essay</i>
<i>A Non-HBCU with a hardship</i>	<i>Pearls of Courage Scholarship to Non-HBCU</i>	<i>Must submit PEARL essay and Pearls of Courage Statement of Consideration</i>
<i>Both HBCU AND Non-HBCU and no hardship</i>	<i>PEARL Foundation Scholarship and HBCU Scholarship</i>	<i>Must submit both PEARL Foundation essay and HBCU essay (Only one scholarship will be awarded.)</i>
<i>Both HBCU and Non-HBCU with a hardship</i>	<i>PEARL Foundation Scholarship and HBCU Scholarship</i>	<i>Must submit both PEARL essay and HBCU essay and <u>ONE (1)</u> Pearls of Courage Statement of Consideration (Only one scholarship will be awarded.)</i>

PLEASE NOTE:

- An applicant is only eligible to receive one scholarship award, to be determined by the Scholarship Committee.
- A completed application and supporting materials must be submitted by the deadline – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 16, 2022, by 11:59 pm (EST)

APPLICANT CRITERIA and APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for **ALL** 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 2022
- 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 2022

Applications must contain:

- Completed online application (**Must be typed**)
- Resume
- Headshot
- High school transcript (uploaded by the school to 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 page
- Signed Certifications page
- **PEARL and HBCU Scholarships - 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.
- Pearls of Courage Scholarship-If applying for hardship, you must submit a fifty (50) word Statement of Consideration. This statement must be double-spaced using a 12-point-Times New Roman Font.

The PEARL Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Essay Topic

(Choose One)

1. Mental health amongst teens and young adults has become an increasingly publicized concern since the start of the pandemic. What do you think is the biggest challenge in recognizing and talking about mental health? How should young people address mental health challenges and work through them?

2. Public conversations about race in the United States are becoming increasingly hostile (i.e. debates about Critical Race Theory and *The 1619 Project* lead by Nikole Hannah-Jones). Why is it important to learn about race in American Society? What are some of the ways we can approach conversations about race openly and honestly in and outside the classroom?

Mae Carter Danzy HBCU Scholarship Essay 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?

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the *virtual* Skills Development Workshop presented by Rho Zeta Omega Chapter scheduled for **Saturday, February 5, 2022**. This Workshop will provide applicants guidance on how best to complete the application as well as to prepare for the interview portion of the application process.

Those who plan to attend the Skills Development Workshop must RSVP at pzoscholarship@gmail.com with your name, school and cell phone number no later than **Wednesday, February 2, 2022**.

More information on the workshop along with the time and location will be announced on our website.

Please note that the Skills Development Workshop is not required but is strongly encouraged!!!

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

3 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

1

Upload **one complete application package** that includes **ALL** supporting materials no later than **Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. (EST)**
NO EXCEPTIONS!

2

Ensure your recommenders and counselors submit your references and official high school transcripts to pzoscholarship@gmail.com no later than **Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. (EST)**
NO EXCEPTIONS!

3

Include **ALL** required documents in the upload. An application that is missing items will be considered incomplete and **will not** be considered for an award. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Your upload must include the following:

- A completed application with all required signatures and information
- A 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. (*Applies to both essays*)
- If applying for hardship, a Statement of Consideration for the Pearls of Courage Scholarship

Additional information to remember:

- RSVP for the Skills Development Workshop no later than February 2, 2022, that will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at pzoscholarship@gmail.com
- Remind the persons submitting references that their forms or reference letters must be uploaded no later than the February 16, 2022 deadline to pzoscholarship@gmail.com
- Remind your School Counselor that your transcript must be uploaded no later than the

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 strongly 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: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Alternate Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

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

Accepted?
YES NO

Name: _____ City/State: _____

Name: _____ City/State: _____

Name: _____ City/State: _____

Name: _____ City/State: _____

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.

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 no later than **February 16, 2022 at 11:59 pm (EST)**

Name	Position	Phone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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 2022.

_____/____ 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's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Applicant's Signature

Date

REFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS

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 no later than Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 11:59pm.

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 a detailed personal appraisal of the applicant below. Complete all sections that apply to your personal knowledge of the applicant. please respond with N/A.

Scholastic Achievement:

Community Service:

Leadership Skills:

Commitment to obtaining a college degree:

RECOMMENDATION FORM (continued)

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

