



ADVANCED STUDIES FUND (ASF) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES & INSTRUCTIONS

Orangewood Foundation Advanced Studies Fund (ASF) Scholarships provide financial assistance to former foster youth who are college graduates seeking assistance in pursuit of advanced studies. Applicants may be considered for support up to their 30th birthday. The intention of the Advanced Studies Scholarship is to serve as supplemental funding and not necessarily to cover the full cost of tuition, books and supplies, and living expenses. It is meant to provide students with some financial support they need to attain educational success. The application process is competitive so submitting an application does not guarantee funding. Scholarship decisions are based on available funding for our fiscal year (July 1st through June 30th).

A. APPLICATION PROCESS / FUNDING PERIOD

Eligible students must complete the Advanced Studies Fund Scholarship Application each year and must provide supporting documentation as requested. **Completed applications must reach Orangewood Foundation by April 1st for consideration of funding for the following school year.** The annual funding period is aligned with our fiscal year, from July 1st to June 30th. Funding does not roll over into the next funding period. Funding for subsequent years in pursuit of advanced studies is not guaranteed with the award of initial support. Eligible students may request consideration for support from the Advanced Studies Fund in pursuit of graduate school, professional certification, or additional training required to obtain a career goal. All Advanced Studies Fund (ASF) Scholarship applications will be reviewed by Orangewood Foundation staff and the ASF Committee. Final funding decisions will be made by June 30th for the next school year. **Applicants may be required to attend an interview at Orangewood Foundation offices in Santa Ana, CA scheduled at the end of April or beginning of May.** If travel to Orange County is not possible, a videoconference call may be arranged.

Application process:

- Application submission period: **July 1st - April 1st**
- Applicant interviews (for select students): **Late April - Early May**
- Applicant notifications: **Late May**

B. ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

1. In order to be eligible for Advanced Studies Fund scholarship consideration, student applicants:
 - a) Must have been declared a dependent of Orange County, CA, and placed in out-of-home care.
Or
 - b) Must have been declared a dependent child or ward in another jurisdiction and have a current association with Orangewood Foundation program services.
And
 - c) Completed a bachelor's degree or certificate

C. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS - Your application packet must include:

First-Time Advanced Studies Applicant

Required:

- Completed Advanced Studies Application
- Transcripts for all Undergraduate work (unofficial transcripts accepted) and Proof of Graduation (Copy of Degree/Certificate)
- Proof of Enrollment/Class Schedule or College Acceptance Letter (if class schedule is not available). Class schedules must include: Student's Name, School, Term, Class List, # of Units per class. If acceptance has not been determined when application is submitted, acceptance needs to be confirmed by the interview date

- Signed Authorization to Release Information Form
- Personal Essay (see questions below)
- Financial Aid Award Summary (submit when available within first term)
- Attend Interview with the Advanced Studies Committee
- Current Photograph (hard copy with application and electronic copy to Ashley Cordero at acordero@orangewoodfoundation.org)

Optional:

- Letters of Recommendation (former professors, employers, and others who have direct knowledge of your academic performance and work ethic are best)
- Resume
- Dependency Verification/Ward of the Court Letter

Returning Advanced Studies Applicant

Required:

- Completed Advanced Studies Application
- Advanced Studies Transcripts
- Proof of Enrollment/Class Schedule. Class schedules must include: Student's Name, School, Term, Class List, # of Units Per Class
- Signed Authorization to Release Information Form
- Personal Essay (see questions below)
- Financial Aid Award Summary (submit when available within first term)
- Current Photograph (hard copy with application and electronic copy to Ashley Cordero at acordero@orangewoodfoundation.org)

D. SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

Please Note: Funding is approved on an individual basis, is subject to availability, and is not guaranteed.

Scholarship awards are generally \$2,500 and up per year based on need and criteria. Funding amounts may change to reflect a student's change in academic status, units completed, and/or program eligibility. Advanced Studies Fund Scholarships are not categorical and amounts will be determined based on the number of requests, the identified needs, and the funds available. Part-time students are also eligible for funding.

Applications and supporting documents may be mailed to: Orangewood Foundation, Attn: Advanced Studies Fund, 1575 E. 17th St., Santa Ana, CA, 92705, or faxed to 714-796-2109. You may email your application and supporting documents to Ashley Cordero at acordero@orangewoodfoundation.org.

Advanced Studies



ADVANCED STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please Note: Application and supporting documentation DUE by April 1st and reviewed for the following Fall recommendations. Funding decisions are made by June 30th.

This application is for former Orange County, CA, foster youth or former foster youth from another jurisdiction who have a relationship with the Orangewood Foundation programs and who are college graduates seeking assistance in pursuit of advanced studies. Advanced Studies scholarships are made on an annual basis and approved for varying scholarship amounts based on need, academic status, and availability of funds. For more information on the application process, please see the Advanced Studies Scholarship Guidelines & Instructions located on the Advanced Studies page of our website at www.orangewood4you.org/advanced-studies-fund.

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please type or print in black or blue ink.)

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____
As it appears on your State Issued Identification Card or Driver License

Date of Birth: _____

Other Names Used: _____ Gender: Male Female

Phone Numbers: Cell: _____ Ethnicity: _____
Work: _____ Home: _____

Email Address: _____

Resident Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Alternative Contacts: Name Relationship Phone Email

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Are you married? Yes No Do you have children? Yes No If so, how many? _____

Child's Name _____ DOB _____

BACKGROUND

Have you received an Orangewood Children's Trust Fund scholarship before? Yes No If yes, when?
If yes, when?

Have you received an Orangewood Advanced Studies scholarship before? Yes No
If yes, when?

Were you declared a dependent child (foster child) of Orange County, CA?
Approximately how old were you when you were placed in foster care? Yes _____
If your case closed prior to emancipating or aging out of the foster care system, how old were you? _____

No Please explain: _____

Were you ever on probation and placed in out-of-home care in Orange County, CA? Yes No
Were you in foster care or on probation in out-of-home care at any time between the ages of 16-19? Yes No

Are/Were you adopted from foster care in Orange County, CA before the age of 13? Yes No

Emancipation Date: _____

Do you have health insurance? Yes No

Are/were you an Orangewood Peer Mentor? Yes No If yes, start date: _____ End Date: _____

What other Orangewood Foundation Programs have you been involved with? _____

List Orangewood Foundation staff you are connected with: _____

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Have you completed an undergraduate degree or trade school certificate? _____

Yes No Graduation Date: _____

Name of last school attended? _____ Undergraduate Major? _____

School Type: Community College University Vocational / Trade School
Degree/certificate received? _____ Undergraduate GPA? _____

If no, current year in college: Junior Senior Other: _____

Enrollment Status: Full-time Part-time Expected graduation date? _____

ADVANCED STUDIES SCHOOL INFORMATION

What type of school are you attending or planning to attend? _____ Have you been accepted? If no, when will you be notified? Yes No

Community College University Vocational / Trade School

When will your school term start? Fall Winter Spring Summer Year: _____

Name of School: _____ City/State: _____

Is the program accredited? _____ What is the accreditation? _____

How many units will you take? _____ Advanced Studies GPA: _____

Major? _____ School ID #: _____

Part-Time or Full-Time Program? Full-time Part-time When do you expect to graduate? _____

Have you visited the campus? _____

Have you spoken with faculty or advisors for your program? _____

Is your school on the: _____ Month/Year
 Semester system Quarter system Modules/Hours Other: _____

Year in Program next academic year (I.e. 1 of 3)? _____

2018-2019 Cost of Tuition (approximate) \$ _____ Total Cost of Tuition (approximate) \$ _____

REQUEST: Requested Amount for Next Academic Year? \$ _____

Other Resources & Alternative Plans:

Are there other resources available to meet your educational or daily living needs (I.e. employment/wages, personal savings,

family contributions, SSI/Social Security, other scholarships/grants, etc.)? Yes No

If yes, please describe and include approximately how much these other resources contribute: _____

EMPLOYMENT

Are you currently employed? Yes No

If you are not currently employed, have you ever been employed? Yes No

Please list your 2 most recent employment experiences, beginning with your current or most recent job:

Company Name: _____

Employment

Status: Full-time Part-time Hours Worked Per Week: _____

Name of Position: _____

Job Duties: _____

Employment Dates: From: _____ To: _____ Salary: Starting \$ _____ Ending \$ _____

Reason for leaving, if past job: _____

Company Name: _____

Employment

Status: Full-time Part-time Hours Worked Per Week: _____

Name of Position: _____

Job Duties: _____

Employment Dates: From: _____ To: _____ Salary: Starting \$ _____ Ending \$ _____

Reason for leaving, if past job: _____

Please describe work experience related to your career goals: _____

Please describe any volunteer experience you may have: _____

REFERENCES

Whom would you consider to be a permanent connection or long-term support in your life and why? _____

Please provide the names and phone numbers for at least two references who can provide input on your ability to succeed in your advanced studies. Former professors, employers, and others who have direct knowledge of your academic performance and work ethic are best.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone Number: _____

How did you find out about the Advanced Studies Scholarship? _____

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Help Us Send Even More Foster Youth to College!

Orangewood Foundation is able to provide many students with scholarships because of the financial support of caring donors in the community. Continued support from these generous individuals and corporations is critical. When donors have the opportunity to read in our newsletter and other publications, or meet scholarship students in person and learn about how their donations directly help to improve the lives of young adults with a history in foster care, they are often inspired to provide additional support. By sharing your story, you help future foster youth achieve their dreams of a college education! Some of the information in this application may be selected for publication. Please indicate how you would like to be identified. (***NOTE: Other than your general age and gender, none of your personal information will be published.**)

Choose one:

I choose to remain anonymous or have Orangewood use an alias/fake name.

I choose to use my first name only.

I choose to use both my first and last name.

I would be open to meeting a donor: Yes No

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and agree to have any of the statements made herein verified by Orangewood Foundation. I authorize any listed references to provide Orangewood Foundation with any relevant information that they may have as it relates to the statements made in this application. I agree to notify Orangewood Foundation if my educational status or contact information changes after submission of this application. I am willing to participate in meetings with the Scholarships Coordinator upon request and do my best to be available for Advanced Studies events.

By marking this box I, _____, acknowledge and agree to the Student Agreement
Student's Name

Please read and sign the "Authorization To Release Information" Form below and make a photocopy of your completed application to keep for your records.

Thank you for applying!

Advanced Studies Scholarship - Monthly Expenses - Budget Sheet

Include income and expenses for any areas that apply to you or write N/A if not applicable.

Income

Net Monthly Income from employment (after taxes) \$ _____

Other Source(s) of Income*, please list

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

*For example, financial aid, other grants/scholarships, family, other organization support, SSI/Soc. Security.

Total Monthly Income = \$ _____

Current Student Loan Debt \$ _____ Total Debt: _____

Expenses

Rent: *Check one:* Apartment House Dorm Other \$ _____

Utilities:

- Electricity \$ _____
- Gas \$ _____
- Water \$ _____
- Telephone \$ _____

Food/Groceries: \$ _____

Health Services/Insurance: \$ _____

Check if applicable: Medical Dental Vision

Transportation:

- Car Payment \$ _____
- Car Insurance \$ _____
- Gasoline \$ _____
- Bus Pass/Metro Line Fare \$ _____

Debt Expense: \$ _____

Miscellaneous living expenses*, please list:

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

*For example: children/baby items, sibling support, pets, clothing, other bills, etc.

Total Monthly Expenses = \$ _____



Advanced Studies

Application Narrative Essay Prompt

Please submit a typed essay addressing the questions listed below. Please do not exceed three pages.

NEW APPLICANTS:

1. Tell us about yourself:
A little introduction – Where did you grow up? Where do you live now? Etc.
2. What is your connection to the Orangewood Foundation and /or foster care?
Were you a dependent of the Court in Orange County? Did you receive Children’s Trust Fund support as an undergraduate student? Have you been an Orangewood Peer Mentor? Have you utilized any other Orangewood Foundation programs/services?
3. Where did you go to school as an undergraduate?
When did you graduate? Major? Are you a strong student? How did your undergraduate studies prepare you for your planned advanced studies?
4. Where will you pursue your advanced studies?
How did you decide on this program and this school?
Have you been accepted yet? If no, when is the acceptance notification period?
What will/are you planning to study?
How does this connect to your career goal?
5. When do you plan to start? How long will it take you to complete your advanced studies?
6. How will you finance this academic pursuit and support yourself as a student?
What is your estimated need/request from the Orangewood Foundation? If you are not awarded an Advanced Studies scholarship, do you have an alternate plan?
7. Describe your academic and other training completed to prepare yourself for the Advanced Studies Program you have selected. Include your reasons for selecting this program and how this ties into your career goals.

RETURNING APPLICANTS:

1. Please describe your academic progress thus far:
Describe the courses/program during your last school year and the work expected of you. Are you on track to graduate? When is your anticipated graduation date?
2. If applicable, please explain if you have had any opportunities to incorporate what you have learned at school in your work/home setting.
3. Please explain how you are balancing school/home life – what are the challenges, if any?
4. Please explain how receiving an Advanced Studies scholarship has impacted your life.
5. If funding were denied, please describe your alternate plan(s).
6. Please explain how Orangewood Foundation can better assist you in your educational/career goals.



Advanced Studies Fund (ASF) Scholarship Program

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY AND USE BLACK INK

One purpose of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") is to protect the privacy of information concerning individual students by placing restrictions on the disclosure of information contained in an individual student's educational records.

By signing this Authorization to Release Information form, you consent to allow staff and board members of Orangewood Foundation to review and discuss any information contained in your educational records and Advanced Studies Fund application as related to participation in the Advanced Studies Fund Scholarship Program.

Your consent to release personal information begins at the time of application to the Orangewood Foundation / Advanced Studies Fund Program. The release remains in effect for the entire time you are receiving assistance from the Orangewood Foundation and the Advanced Studies Fund Scholarship Program.

During the application process, and throughout the school year, in order to maintain eligibility, we may also need to request/relay additional educational information related to your application or participation in the program (i.e.: enrollment status, transcript(s)/grades, class schedules). Once signed, this Authorization to Release Information permits us to discuss your personal educational history and academic status with Orangewood Foundation staff and board members, university/college representatives, as well as other supporters familiar with your educational history. In all cases, your information is handled with strict confidentiality and will be used only for the purposes of serving you in your pursuit of higher education.

Orangewood Foundation staff will be available to answer your questions during normal business hours, Mon-Fri, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. You can contact Orangewood Foundation staff to assist you with your application questions by calling (714) 619-0209 or by emailing: acordero@orangewoodfoundation.org.

CERTIFICATION:

By marking this box, I understand that information related to my application to the Orangewood Foundation / Advanced Studies Fund Program, my educational records, and academic status may be discussed with Orangewood Foundation staff and board members, college/university and vocational school staff, and other relevant professional service providers familiar with my educational history with my FULL CONSENT. I understand that this release will remain in effect the entire time period during which I am receiving funding from the Orangewood Foundation Advanced Studies Fund. I understand that this release exempts Orangewood Foundation staff from adhering to confidentiality statements I may have previously signed regarding my educational records. I also understand that I may request in writing that this Authorization to Release Information no longer be held as valid and my future consent to release information can be retracted by me at any time, however, such actions may impact scholarship funding. I certify that all of the information reported by me on this form is true and accurate.

Student's Name (printed)

Today's Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date of Birth