



## **ADVANCED STUDIES FUND (ASF) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

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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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>).

### **A. APPLICATION PROCESS / FUNDING PERIOD**

Eligible students must complete the Advanced Studies Fund Scholarship Application each year and must provide supporting documentation as requested. The annual funding period is aligned with our fiscal year, from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 30<sup>th</sup> for the next school year. Applicants may be required to attend an interview at Orangewood Foundation offices in Santa Ana, CA. If travel to Orange County is not possible, a video conference call may be arranged.

#### **Application process:**

- Application submission period: **January 1st - May 1st**
- Applicant interviews (for select students): **Late May – Early June**
- Applicant notifications: **Late June – Early July**
- Recipients complete ASF Expectations Agreement – **July**

### **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 and enrolling in an advanced degree.

**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)
- Dependency Verification/Ward of the Court Letter
- Current Photograph
- Attend Interview with the Advanced Studies Committee

**Optional:**

- Letters of Recommendation (former professors, employers, and others who have direct knowledge of your academic performance and work ethic are best)
- Resume
- Detailed Budget Sheet

**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
- Financial Aid Award Summary (submit when available within first term)
- Current Photograph
- Attend Interview with the Advanced Studies Committee

**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. Max funding is \$10,000. 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 eligible for funding.

The application can be located online at

<https://www.orangewood4you.org/scholarships/advanced-studies-fund/how-to-apply/>

## **New Applicant Essay**

**Your essay must address the below questions.**

**Please limit your essay to 2 pages.**

### **Background Information**

- Which Orangewood Foundation programs have you utilized in the past? Please share your experience with Orangewood Foundation.
- What makes you a good candidate for the Advanced Studies Scholarship?

### **Education Goals**

- Describe how you have prepared to pursue and complete your intended program.
- Why did you choose this program? Have you spoken to anyone at the school/your potential advisor for your program? Is your program online or in-person?
- How will this degree path help you reach your career goals?

### **Support system**

- Whom do you look to for support and encouragement?
- How do you cope with setbacks and challenges?

### **Finances**

- How do you plan to finance your advanced studies education?
- Describe your plans if you are not selected for this scholarship?

## **Returning Applicant Essay**

**Your essay must address the below questions.**

**Please limit your essay to 2 pages.**

### **Recap**

- How has this last year been for you?
- Have there been challenges to this year?
- What is your final educational goal? What path do you plan to take after reaching that goal?

### **Support system**

- Describe who you look to for support and encouragement.
- How do you cope with challenges you may have faced this year?

### **Finances**

- How have you been financing your advanced studies education?
- What is your current debt circumstance? School loans, personal debt, etc.
- What is your scholarship award amount request? How will this amount support your education goals?
- If you are not selected for this scholarship, how will it affect your education plans?

## Advanced Studies Scholarship – OPTIONAL Detailed 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 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.

You can contact Orangewood Foundation staff to assist you with your application questions by calling (714) 619-0169 or by emailing: [cetzold@orangewoodfoundation.org](mailto:cetzold@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.

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Student's Name (printed)

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Today's Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

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Date of Birth