

Grand Lodge of Maryland Order Sons of Italy

Scholarship Program

Introduction

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Program has been established to provide financial assistance for the qualified students of Italian ancestry to help them realize their highest potential as citizens and leaders of their community, state and nation. The program seeks to encourage participation from students who will be pursuing full or part-time higher education in diverse fields. Such educational pursuit is encouraged to enable students to attain vocational or professional skills necessary in an increasingly complex and competitive society. It is hoped that this program will provide these students with the impetus for life-long learning and the motivation necessary to achieve any educational goals.

Program Guidelines

1. All Maryland residents of Italian ancestry who are American citizens and are either members of, or related to members of the OSIA of Maryland, for at least one year, are eligible.
2. The program will provide scholarship assistance to eligible students for study at the post-secondary level which includes four-year colleges, two-year colleges and accredited or state approved technical/trade schools. The program does not provide scholarships for graduate study or for study in post-baccalaureate professional schools.
3. Applicants must demonstrate financial need to be considered for scholarship assistance which will be determined from the information on the scholarship application form and from other data as requested in the section on application procedures.

4. Applicants must have a record of academic achievement in their previous schoolwork, and must demonstrate sufficient aptitude as indicated by their total school record, school recommendations and any standardized tests that will predict their ability to benefit from further study. The committee will also consider maturity and motivation as important factors in determining an applicant's capacity to achieve educational goals.
5. Scholarship money for individual students may be awarded; however such factors as need and type of program will be important determinants in the calculation of a specific amount.
6. Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis. While applicants are eligible to apply every year, there is no automatic carry over award from one year to the next.
7. Scholarships will be made ***payable to the school*** upon evidence of registration by the student for the first semester or subsequent future semester.

Application Procedures

1. September - December, 2025 : Secure scholarship information and an application form from the president of any Sons of Italy lodge in Maryland. Scholarship materials may also be secured by writing to :

Chairman, Grand Lodge Scholarship
Committee Grand Lodge of Maryland, O.S.I.A.
P.O. Box 85
Perry Hall, Maryland 21128

Applicant may also request materials by phoning OSIA office - 410-668-6742.
Application may be downloaded at 'www.osiamd.org'.

2. December, 2025 : Secure Financial Aid Report by going to web 'www.fafsa.ed.gov' - (fafsa - Free Application for Federal Student Aid). At the website there is a fafsa worksheet which the student may use to prepare answers for the actual on line fafsa form. Complete on line the fafsa Financial Aid Form. A printed fafsa report should be retained, and a copy sent to the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee at the time indicated below.

3. January - March, 2026 :The following list of documents should be mailed to the scholarship committee by the applicant :
- a. A copy of your Birth Certificate or Naturalization Papers if you are not a native born American.
 - b. A copy of your Maryland Driver's License or Maryland Voters Registration Card.
 - c. A ***typed*** essay establishing your Italian ancestry and what your heritage means to you. Essay must be a minimum of 500 words or longer.
 - d. **Completed O.S.I.A. Scholarship Program application form. (An incomplete form will void your application.)**
 - e. Completed Maryland Financial Aid Form package - 'Free Application for Federal Student Aid'.
 - f. A transcript showing the applicant's school record for at least **the last two and one-half years must be sent by the school directly to the scholarship committee. Transcripts sent by an applicant will not be accepted.**
 - g. Applicant must verify relationship to member of the Order - i.e., name of relative; name and number of lodge in which relative is member.
4. **March 31, 2026: Deadline for applications and other documents to be received by the scholarship committee. This also includes the transcript to be sent by the school. Any materials bearing a later post mark will not be accepted.**
5. May-June 2026 : Announcement and notification of scholarship winners. Notification will be by letter to individual winners.

Confidentiality: All information forwarded to the O.S.I.A. Scholarship Committee will be held in confidence.

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND O.S.I.A.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name

ADDRESS _____
Number and Street City State Zip

DATE OF BIRTH _____ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____

Italian Family Name _____ Lodge Name _____

Name of and Relationship to Lodge
Member _____ Lodge Number _____

Parents (Check if living):

____ Father ____ Stepfather

____ Mother ____ Stepmother

Phone : _____

Cell Phone : _____

Check any that apply:

____ Parents Separated

____ Parents Divorced

____ Legal Guardian

I understand that all information submitted on this application will be kept confidential.

I declare to the best of my knowledge, that the information reported on this application is true, correct and complete. Any information not completed on this application will make this application null and void.

Applicant's Signature

Parent's Signature if applicant's age is less than 18 years

Date

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL OR COLLEGE YOU WILL BE ATTENDING

PRESENT SCHOLASTIC ATTENDANCE AT

ARE YOU EMPLOYED? _____ Part Time _____ Full Time _____ Summer Only

MARITAL STATUS _____

PROVIDE BELOW INFORMATION ON ALL SIBLING DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>NAME OF SIBLING</u>	<u>NAME OF SCHOOL TO BE ATTENDED</u>
____1. _____	_____	_____
____2. _____	_____	_____
____3. _____	_____	_____
____4. _____	_____	_____

INDICATE ANY OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR. NOTE ANY WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN AWARDED AND THE AMOUNT..

INDICATE ANY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES NOT COVERED ON THIS APPLICATION

What is your college major or vocational intention? _____

What amount of money will be available to you for your next year of college?

- a. Your own savings _____ c. Parents _____
b. Other scholarships _____ d. Other sources _____

Itemize your estimated expenses for next year. Please give an estimate for each category.

- a. Tuition _____ c. Room and Board _____
b. Books _____ d. Fees and other expenses _____

Are any other members of your family applying for a Grand Lodge Scholarship? _____

List 'a' community activities, and 'b' extra-curricular activities in school in which you have been involved for the past two years. You may use a separate sheet if necessary.

a. _____

b. _____

Have you earned or received any special academic honors or recognition in high school or college?

Print (word processor or typewriter) brief paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper in addressing the following questions.

- a. What significant facts would you like the committee to consider in connection with your application?
- b. How will this scholarship help you? Please be specific.