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, 2026 : 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, 2026 : 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, 2027 :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, 2027: 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 2027 : 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.

AGE	NAME OF SIBLING	NAME OF SCHOOL TO BE ATTENDED
___	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.