

IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC.
“EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE” HBCU SCHOLARSHIP
INFORMATION SHEET

OVERVIEW

The “Empowering Excellence” Scholarship, sponsored by Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., is established to support and encourage promising African American students who are pursuing higher education at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This scholarship seeks to recognize students who demonstrate a strong commitment to academic achievement, leadership, community service, and personal growth.

A \$2,000 award will be granted to five recipients annually, one from each of the Sorority’s regions, total \$10,000. All scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the recipient’s accredited HBCU to be applied toward tuition, fees, or other educational expenses, in accordance with institutional policies.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This scholarship is available through submission from local chapters only. A chapter may submit **only one** applicant for this scholarship. Sponsoring chapters must submit electronically applications to the National President-Elect by **February 14**. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements to apply for the “Empowering Excellence” HBCU Scholarship.

- Be a **current** college student enrolled full-time at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
- Have completed a minimum of 16 credit hours of study at the time of application.
- Hold a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or 2.0 on a 3.0 scale.
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

The Application Packet **must** include the following:

- Scholarship Consent Form signed by applicant and parent/legal guardian **if under the age of 18**.
- Student Application signed by applicant and parent/legal guardian **if under the age of 18**.
- Provide an official current/certified transcript of academic program.
- Two letters of recommendation
- A 500-650 word essay using one of the two prompts provided.
- Supporting Documentation
- Provide a business/professional photograph.

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SCORING RUBRIC

Applicant's Name _____

Sponsoring Chapter _____ Region _____

Category	High Points	Medium Points	Low Points	Applicant's Score
GPA	20	15	0	
Leadership, Service & Activities	25	15	5	
Honors & Awards	10	5	0	
Essay (Choose 1 Prompt)	35	20	0–10	
Recommenders' Input	10	5	0	
Bonus – Iota Phi Lambda Affiliation (Member or Former Future Iota Leader)	25	N/A	0	
Total Possible Score	125			
Applicant's Score				

*See Reviewer's Guide for category and point details.

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REVIEWER’S GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to ensure fairness, consistency, and transparency in evaluating applicants. Each category must be scored according to the High, Medium, or Low descriptors in the rubric table.

GPA (20 points)

- High (20 pts): GPA above minimum requirement. (2.5+/4.0 or 2.0+/3.0)
- Medium (15 pts): Meets minimum requirement.
- Low (0 pts): Below requirement (disqualified).

Leadership, Service & Activities Documentation (25 points)

- High (25 pts): Multiple activities + at least one leadership role.
- Medium (15 pts): Active participation but no leadership role.
- Low (5 pts): Minimal or no activity involvement.

Honors & Awards Documentation (10 points)

- High (10 pts): Multiple or major awards/recognitions.
- Medium (5 pts): One honor/award listed.
- Low (0 pts): None listed.

Essay (35 points)

- High (**35 POINTS**): Strong essay; thoughtful, well-organized, within word count, strong alignment with values.
- Medium (**20 POINTS**): Adequate essay; meets length, but limited depth/reflection.
- Low (**0–10 POINTS**): Weak essay; under word count, lacks focus, or poorly written.

Recommenders’ Input (10 points)

- High (**10 POINTS**): Strong, detailed endorsement of applicant’s character and leadership.
- Medium (**5 POINTS**): General or brief endorsement.
- Low (**0 POINTS**): Weak or missing recommendation.

Bonus: Iota Phi Lambda Affiliation (25 points)

- High (**25 POINTS**): Verified Iota Phi Lambda member or former Future Iota Leader.
- Low (**0 POINTS**): No affiliation.

*** Final Score: 125 Points Maximum ***Deadline February 14th