

Gospel Music Worship of America Women's Council Annual Scholarships

Eloise Gaffney, National Women's Council Chair

2026 Application

Eligibility

The women's Council of the Gospel Music Workshop of America awards one (1) to three (3) scholarship(s) each year at the GMWA annual convention.

The scholarships are open to deserving female or male applicants of the GMWA. Applicants must be enrolled in and actively pursuing in the upcoming semester any higher education degree or certification program from an accredited institution, to include colleges, universities, trade/specialty schools, business schools, post-graduate programs, etc. On-line programs may qualify so long as they are part of an approved curriculum of a degree/certification program in which the applicant is currently enrolled.

All scholarships require a writing sample and certification from your Chapter Representative that you are indeed matriculating in a post-secondary education program. Applications will only be accepted from Chapter Representatives and their Assistant Representatives. Scholarship winners will be announced at the GMWA Convention's Women's Council **Annual Hatter's Tea on Thursday, July 30, 2026**. Recipients need not be present to accept. Scholarships are made payable directly to the institution(s) of higher learning.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is most probable that scholarship funds will not post on the school(s) account(s) by the end of the first semester.

Judging Criteria

- I. Christian Involvement (church) **15 points**
 - Regular attendance
 - Organization/ministries affiliation
 - Letter of recommendation of good standing

- II. Scholarship Record (school) **15 points**
- Grade Point Average (submit documentation)
 - Awards/honors/leadership
 - Extra-curricular school activities
- III. Community Involvement **15 points**
- Organizations/affiliations
 - Projects
 - Awards/honors/leadership
- IV. GMWA Participation **25 points**
- Local Chapter
 - National Level
- V. Essay **30 points**
- Content/originality
 - Clarity
 - Grammar
 - Goals

In addition to the required letters of recommendation as noted, others are helpful.

Personal Information

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephones _ (____) _____ (home); _ (____) _____ (cell)

E-mail Address _____

Marital Status _____ Number and ages of children _____

GMWA Involvement

Chapter _____ How long in Chapter? _____

Describe your participation in your Chapter _____

Writing Sample

Please attach an essay of 400-500 words on one of the following topics: "I am the best candidate for the GMWA Women's Council scholarship because..." or "Membership in the GMWA has inspired my education..." **The essay must be double-spaced, in 14-point size and in Times New Roman font.** It must have one-inch left and right margins. Points will be subtracted for spelling and grammatical errors. You must indicate your **word count** at the end of your essay.

Submission Instructions

Submit your completed application with your writing sample attached, by hard copy or e-mail, to your Chapter Representative or his/her designate by **Wednesday, July 15, 2026**. Your Chapter Representative must certify that you are/have been an active chapter member and that you are currently pursuing a qualifying program as previously described. Your Chapter Representative will submit your approved application to the Women's Council by **midnight on Monday, July 20, 2026**, by email (preferred method)

to gmwaladyscholar@aol.com, **subject: GMWA Scholarships**; or by mail to Women's Council Scholarships, 1417 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23220-2305. If by mail, it must be postmarked by **July 20, 2026**. **NOTE: Chapter Representative certification may be submitted separately from the application, but receipt of both is subject to the above deadline.**

Chapter Representative's Certification

I, _____, Chapter Representative/
Assistant Chapter Representative (select one) of the _____
Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America do certify that the person who
submitted this application is known by me to be/have been a member of my
Chapter and to be enrolled in and pursuing a higher education program in the
upcoming fall session as described herein, qualifying her/him for consideration of
this scholarship. I recommend her/him for consideration for a Women's Council
scholarship.

Signature _____ Date _____