

# Miss Louisiana

 ORGANIZATION

## 2018-2019 Miss Louisiana Scholarship Rules & Regulations

THE MISS LOUISIANA ORGANIZATION WILL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS  
UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES

### 1) SCHOLARSHIP USAGE:

Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, textbooks, academic fees, and other appropriate educational expenses. All unusual or questionable items of expense must be referred to the Miss Louisiana Scholarship Chairman with as much information as possible and far enough in advance for consideration of approval. Amounts received as scholarship payments are taxable income to the extent that they exceed "Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses." Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses include tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance of a student at an educational organization, including fees, books, supplies and equipment required of all students in the particular course of instruction.

Full-time and Part-time students are eligible for Tuition Reimbursement. Payment for on campus room and board will be made to the educational institution and such request must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from the educational institution evidencing the charges for same. Payment for off campus housing will be made to the lessor, with a fully executed lease agreement showing the contestants name as the lessee and the monthly rent. Appropriate documentation includes school schedule verifying the contestant's enrollment, copy of detailed tuition statement from the university along with a completed Application for Disbursement of Miss Louisiana Scholarship Funds, and the Miss America Scholarship Request Form, which can be found on the Miss Louisiana website. Contestants maintaining at least 12 credit hours per semester or 9 credit hours per quarter as a full-time student, and 6 credit hours for graduate school will be eligible for payment of on campus, as well as off campus housing. Scholarships do not cover key fees, deposits, utilities (electric, gas, cable, phone, etc.), preparatory materials and exams.

Payment of all approved expenditures will be made directly to the college, university or other accredited institution as recognized by the U. S. Department of Education unless extenuating circumstances exist (with the exception of computer, tablet, or musical equipment clause). Personal reimbursements to scholarship recipients will not be honored. When requesting an award it is the responsibility of the student to ensure proper planning and time allotment are exercised. The Miss Louisiana Organization suggests a minimum of 30 days to process a scholarship request.

It is each contestant's obligation to determine whether the scholarship, in whole or part, is includable in gross taxable income, regardless of whether a Form 1099 has been issued by either the state organization, the Community Foundation or Miss America Organization. Contestants are encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding the taxability of the scholarship payments.

Contestants will be reimbursed for textbooks (hardback or electronic) for the current semester only. A copy of the class schedule, a copy of the syllabi for the classes, a copy of the detailed receipt, and a copy of either the credit card statement or cancelled check must be sent in with the other proper paperwork. Electronic books will also be reimbursed for the current semester only. The same rules that are listed above apply to electronic books.

## **2) REQUESTING USAGE:**

Requests for scholarships are initially processed by the Miss Louisiana Scholarship Chairman for review and approval upon written receipt of statements from colleges, universities and schools or from the contestant for other educational expenses. All statements and invoices must be accompanied with the completed Application for Disbursement of Miss Louisiana Scholarship Funds and the Miss America Scholarship Request Form.

The Miss Louisiana Organization will reimburse contestants (full time and part time) one time for each of the following technology-based purchases.

There will be a \$2,000 maximum reimbursement for a computer. Software will be reimbursed if it is needed for the basic operation of the computer, or if specialty software is required (written on the syllabus) for a particular class. There is a \$1,000 maximum reimbursement for a tablet. Software will be reimbursed if it is needed for the basic operation of the tablet, or if specialty software is required (written on the syllabus) for a particular class. This reimbursement depends on the amount of money that a contestant was awarded.

## **3) PRIORITY OF LEVEL IN USAGE:**

Contestants receiving scholarships at the state level must use the scholarship won at the local level prior to applying for funds at the state level. Verification must be submitted in writing or email from the Local Director that all local scholarship funds have been exhausted. Any requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Scholarship Committee for consideration.

## **4) STUDENT LOANS:**

Scholarships may be used for outstanding student loan obligations provided the contestant has satisfactorily completed the coursework for which the loan was obtained. In all cases, requests must include a current bill from the lender showing the lender's current address, a copy of the promissory note showing that the contestant is the primary payer of the obligation, and an official transcript showing completion of the coursework. Make sure the lender is the one that currently owns the student loan. Payment will be made directly to the lending institution and credited to the student's account.

## 5) USAGE FOR FUTURE EXPENSES AND FORFEITURES

Scholarships may be used for future educational expenses, provided, however, contestants must use their scholarships within one (1) year or two (2) years for the current Miss Louisiana of the date of the award. If a contestant has not submitted the completed and proper paperwork to the scholarship chairperson for her scholarship award dollars by the deadline of July 1, her right to request funds will be forfeited. If a contestant forfeits any money from her scholarship award at the local level or the state level, her award at the national level will be automatically forfeited.

Please note, any scholarship balance remaining after the Expiration Date will automatically be forfeited.

An exception to the time limits set forth above may be considered if the contestant, prior to the Expiration Date, submits a written appeal to the Miss Louisiana Scholarship Committee citing compelling reasons why the time period should be extended. An extension will generally be permitted when the contestant has local awards remaining within the prescribed time limits above or if the contestant wins the state title. However, the contestant must still submit a written request for extension. The Miss Louisiana Scholarship Committee shall review the request and determine whether the extension is warranted within thirty (30) days of receipt. Consistent with the rules and regulations, the decision of the Miss Louisiana Organization shall be final and binding.

I have read and understood the 2018-2019 Miss Louisiana Scholarship Organization Scholarship Rules and Regulations:

---

Contestant Signature

---

Date

---

Printed Name