

Memphis Advantage Scholarship Application 2008-2009

The Memphis Advantage Scholarship Program is designed to support two primary goals of the University. The first goal is to ensure a diverse student enrollment that reflects our community, leads to meaningful classroom interactions and reaches out to underrepresented ethnic populations.

The second goal is to attract regional rural West Tennessee students to the University in an effort to improve college attainment rates in the 20 West Tennessee counties outside of Shelby County (see county list below). The percentage of the population who has earned a bachelor's degree is below the national and state average in most of these counties. This program strives to support state-wide initiatives to improve this condition in our region.

The Memphis Advantage Scholarship Program is a **competitive** need-based academic scholarship that stipulates the following minimum requirements for consideration:

Must have **all** in this category:

- Tennessee resident
- 2008 high school graduate
- Minimum ACT composite score 23
- Minimum cumulative high school GPA 3.0 (weighted)
- Family AGI of less than \$80,000 annually (as indicated on the FAFSA)

And meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Underrepresented ethnic population
or
- First generation college student (neither parent possesses a bachelor's degree)
or
- Be a resident of one of the listed rural West Tennessee Counties

Award Consideration:

Awards will be determined by a standing committee. Committee selections will be based on a competitive process, which considers academic credentials, a written essay and the other student attributes described in this document.

Eligible west Tennessee counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Tipton, Weakly.

Advantage Application Deadline and FAFSA Application Deadline: **Extended to May 1, 2008.**

Note: Awards may not be stacked with other general university academic scholarships.

Award: \$4,000 per year for four years.

Maintenance GPA Requirement: 2.75 cumulative GPA in the first year and 3.0 cumulative GPA in subsequent years. Students must have continuous full-time enrollment (not including summers) in order to receive the scholarship.

How do I apply? The Memphis Advantage Scholarship application is on the back of this sheet.

Memphis Advantage Scholarship Application – 2008

Instructions:

1. Please complete each item in ink or type.
2. Apply **and be accepted** for admission to the University of Memphis prior to **May 1, 2008**
3. Submit this application and required essay no later than **May 1, 2008**
4. File the 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no later than **May 1, 2008**

Required Information

Full Name: _____ Student I.D. # (SSN) _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Requirements (Please mark with an “X” each of the following requirements that you meet) You must meet **all** of the following in order to be eligible to be considered for the Memphis Advantage Scholarship.

- _____ Tennessee resident
- _____ 2008 high school graduate
- _____ Minimum ACT composite score 23
- _____ Minimum cumulative high school GPA 3.0 (weighted)
- _____ Family AGI of less than \$80,000 annually (as indicated on the FAFSA)

And meet at least one of the following criteria (Please mark with an “X” each of the following criteria that you meet) You must meet **at least one** of the following criteria in order to be eligible to be considered for the Memphis Advantage Scholarship.

- _____ Underrepresented ethnic population
or
- _____ First generation college student (neither parent possesses a bachelor’s degree)
or
- _____ Be a resident of one of the listed rural West Tennessee Counties

Essay

Please submit with this application a one-page essay in response to the statement below (typed and double-spaced):

The Memphis Advantage Scholarship is designed to ensure a more diverse student enrollment by providing scholarship funds to students who are in an underrepresented population (ethnicity, first-generation college student, rural west Tennessee resident). Please describe how you, if awarded this scholarship, will help to fulfill this goal.

CERTIFICATION: I certify that all of the information provided on this application is true and that I have not willingly withheld any pertinent information. I will use scholarship funds for educational purposes only. I agree that if any information in this application is inaccurate that I may jeopardize my opportunity to be selected for this scholarship.

Signature _____ Date _____

*The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University.
It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.*

Please return this application to: University of Memphis Scholarship Office – 107 Wilder Tower
Memphis, TN 38152 or fax to (901) 678-5621