

Scholarship Opportunities for Hospitality Students



Hundreds of scholarships are available through the American Hotel & Lodging Foundation to help college students further their studies and ultimately build a rewarding career in hospitality

Don't think your GPA or financial need is high enough? Think again. A commitment to hospitality is all you need (and a few minimum requirements), and with more than \$1 million in scholarships available, there's sure to be at least one that's right for you.



For more information or to fill out an online application, scan the QR Code or visit www.ahlafoundation.org.



HOW WILL I BE EVALUATED?

There are a few requirements, but they're pretty basic. Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate hospitality-related degree-granting program, with the exception of the Rama and Graduate scholarships, at a U.S. college or university. Qualifying majors include programs such as hotel/restaurant management, culinary arts, travel/tourism, and hotel administration. Each scholarship has additional requirements as well, so be sure to read them all before deciding which ones to apply for.

You'll be evaluated on academics, related work experience, extracurricular activities, financial need, honors, and personal attributes, but we're looking for more than a "cookie cutter" profile.

IS IT WORTH MY TIME?

With nine different scholarship programs and more than \$1 million to hand out to a few hundred recipients, it's never been easier to get tuition and textbook money. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$7,500, and unlike a loan, AHLA Foundation awards never needs to be paid back.

It takes less than an hour to apply. Wouldn't you say it's worth your time?

YOU GET MORE THAN JUST A SCHOLARSHIP!

Awardees of an AHLAF scholarship receive a free one-year membership to the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), placing you at the center of the industry with access to all the news, information, and events on which the nation's leading hotel companies rely. It keeps you in the know and in touch with the individuals who make the hiring decisions. You also receive an exclusive opportunity to join AHLAF's alumni group, a close-knit group of scholarship awardees who act as vital connections down the road. If you are under 30 years of age you'll also be able to join AHLA's newest membership category, the Under 30 Gateway, which includes a mentor program.

LET'S GET STARTED

Our scholarships fall into two categories: **self-nominated** and **school-nominated**. For self-nominated scholarships, you assess which ones you qualify for and then indicate the ones for which you want to receive consideration. (Your school does not have to be affiliated with AHLAF.) If you've been notified by a faculty member that you've been nominated by your school, be sure to check the appropriate box under "school-nominated" scholarships, as well as indicate any other self-nominated scholarships you're interested in.

Just remember, the application deadline is March 15.

Apply online at : <https://ahlafoundation.scholarshipapps.org/>

Self-Nominated Scholarships

INCOMING FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created exclusively for incoming freshmen to encourage enrollment in hospitality-related undergraduate programs and attract more students to the lodging industry. The program is funded from the PepsiCo Foundation Scholarship Fund, proceeds from the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS), and scholarship monies set aside from AHLAF's New Century Fund Campaign.

Pepsico Foundation

The PepsiCo Foundation made a \$250,000 contribution through AHLAF's New Century Fund Campaign in 2001, creating the PepsiCo Foundation Scholarships. The fund has focused on encouraging incoming freshman to study hospitality. To-date, 85 students have received scholarships totaling \$233,000.



ALIS

The Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS), has allocated a generous portion of its revenues to benefit the educational, research, and training missions of AHLAF. Since its inception, ALIS has provided \$2,333,166 in scholarships for 529 students.



New Century Fund Campaign

The unprecedented success of the New Century Fund Campaign, showed the industry's strong commitment to meeting its challenges and seizing its opportunities. The campaign raised more than \$9 million for scholarships, school-to-career programs, career outreach and workforce development, support for the American Hotel & Lodging Foundation, and technology research.



Awards:

Baccalaureate Majors - \$4,000
Associate Majors - \$2,000

Eligibility:

- An incoming freshman for the upcoming fall semester, which is defined as a student who has never been enrolled in a college or university
- An undergraduate hospitality management major at a U.S. college or university
- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the upcoming fall and spring semesters
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.0
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident

OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Opening Doors to Opportunity capital campaign, reinforced the industry's diligence and unwavering support of our future leaders. The campaign raised over \$7.4 million to fund the Foundation's academic scholarships, professional development, and industry research programs. This scholarship program was created to disburse approximately \$3.2 million of the campaign proceeds dedicated to academic scholarships.

Awards:

Baccalaureate Majors - \$7,500 for full-time enrollment \$3,750 for the fall semester only
Associate Majors - \$3,000 for full-time enrollment (at least 12 credit hours) \$1,500 for the fall semester only

Eligibility:

- Enrolled at least 12 credit hours for both the fall and spring semesters, or just the fall semester if graduating in December.
- An undergraduate hospitality management major at an accredited U.S. college or university.
- Minimum overall GPA of 2.5.
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident.

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

After receiving many requests for graduate scholarships, AHLAF began offering a scholarship exclusively for graduate students in 2008. The program is funded by proceeds generated by the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS).

Awards: \$5,000

Eligibility:

- If your graduate degree is in anything other than a hospitality-related program, you must have either:
- An undergraduate degree in hospitality
- Four years' employment in the lodging industry after graduation

OR if you do not have either of the above, then you must be enrolled in a hospitality-related graduate degree

- Enrollment can be full- or part-time in a U.S. college or university
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.0
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident

**THE HYATT HOTELS FUND FOR
MINORITY LODGING MANAGEMENT
STUDENTS**
HYATT®

In 1988, Hyatt established this fund to provide financial aid to minority students pursuing a degree in hotel management.

Since its inception, approximately 479 minority students have received \$1,044,000 through this scholarship.

Awards: \$2,000

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the upcoming fall and spring semesters, or just the fall semester if graduating this December
- A baccalaureate hospitality management major in a U.S. college or university
- At least a junior for the upcoming fall semester
- The competition is open to minority students: African-American, Hispanic, Native American/Alaskan, and Asian/Pacific Islander
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident



LaDarius Pugh

University of Central Florida
Graduate Scholarship

“I could not have been more elated to have been a recipient of the Graduate Scholarship. It’s an incredible way to represent AHLAF in such a positive light. During the beginning of my program, I almost withdrew from grad school because of financial hardships. This scholarship now plays an integral role with furthering my education as a graduate student, and that is unforgettable and very much so appreciated. It means a lot to me that I am familiar with such a prestigious hotel organization who wants to see me succeed both professionally and academically.”

Jana Vaughan

Collin College
AHLAF General Fund Scholarship



“I have returned to school following an absence of nearly 30 years. Returning to school has been a dream of mine, but I could never manage to make it work. I have two special needs sons and have spent 17 years helping them. As a non-traditional student, I take this second chance very seriously. This gift of education not only shows support for my learning, but it also reinforces my motivation to strive for my dream.”

THE ECOLAB SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION



This program was established by Ecolab in 1996 as a commitment to the lodging industry and to support the development of its future leaders. To date, more than \$530,000 has been awarded to 306 hospitality management students.

Awards:

Baccalaureate Majors - \$2,000
Associate Majors - \$1,000

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for both the upcoming fall and spring semesters
- An undergraduate hospitality management major at a U.S. college or university

AMERICAN EXPRESS SCHOLARSHIP



Founded by American Express in 1994, this program is designed specifically for current lodging employees and their dependents. Endowed with more than \$500,000, the fund has awarded \$544,649 in scholarships to 483 students and professionals.

Awards:

Baccalaureate Majors: \$2,000 full-time enrollment, or \$1,000 part-time

Associate Majors: \$1,000 full-time enrollment, or \$500 part-time

Eligibility:

- Enrolled full-time or part-time in an undergraduate hospitality management program at a U.S. college or university
- You must either:
- Be working a minimum of 20 hours per week at an AHLA member hotel with at least 12 months’ hotel experience
- OR
- Be a dependent of a qualified employee, and have past employment in some capacity in the hospitality industry

School-Nominated Scholarships

ARTHUR J. PACKARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

This scholarship honors Arthur J. Packard, a third-generation hotelier, whose work for AHLA extended over 30 years -- one of the longest tenures on record.



The Packard Competition provides scholarships to the most outstanding student of lodging management and to two runners-up through an annual competition among Foundation affiliated four-year programs. Each university nominates its best-qualified student to compete. If you're attending a four-year Foundation-affiliated school, request a nomination through your dean's office for this prestigious award.

Awards:

First-place winner receives \$5,000

Second-place receives \$3,000

Third-place receives \$2,000

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the upcoming fall and spring semester, or just the fall semester if graduating this December
- A baccalaureate hospitality management major at an
- AHLEF affiliated school
- At least a junior for the upcoming fall semester
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.5
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident

Jessie Cheon

Virginia Polytechnic Institute &
State University
Rama Scholarship for the
American Dream



"Being an unaccompanied youth during high school, life was challenging. Upon graduating high school, I was on my own. After receiving the acceptance letter from the college that I've always wanted to go to, it was a concern of mine on how I would manage to pay for my college education. With your financial generosity, I am able to attend school without as much difficulty and focus more on my education. The AHLAF scholarship has allowed me to be one step closer to my goal. This scholarship has inspired me to help others by giving back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help young students achieve their goal just as you have helped me. I am very honored to be this year's AHLAF scholarship recipient and sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me and going through this journey with me."

THE RAMA SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM

JHM Hotels, Inc. established the Rama Scholarship for the American Dream with a \$1,000,001 endowment. The five Rama brothers, principals in the company, emigrated from India to pursue their American Dream. It began with the ownership of one lodging property and grew into a successful operation of 42 properties and more than 1,500 associates. The fund, established on the 25th anniversary of the brothers' first hotel purchase, encourages others to create their own American Dream. Since its inception in 1998, the Rama Scholarship Fund has awarded \$1,130,000 in scholarships to 619 recipients.

Award: \$500 - \$3,000 depending upon enrollment and recommended amount from school

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in at least 9 credit hours for upcoming fall and spring semesters, or just the fall semester if graduating in December
- An undergraduate or graduate hospitality management major
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.5
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- Participating schools select the recipients. Preference is given to students of Asian-Indian descent and other minority groups, as well as JHM Hotel employees

Participating Schools

The following 13 hospitality management schools have been designated to participate in the program:

- Bethune-Cookman University
- California State Polytechnic University
- Cornell University
- Florida International University
- Georgia State University
- Greenville Technical College
- Howard University
- Johnson & Wales University - Charlotte
- New York University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Houston
- University of South Carolina
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

AHLAF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

The Foundation's largest program, the Academic Scholarship Program, is co-administered with 70 universities and colleges affiliated with AHLAF.

For the 2023-24 academic year, a total of **\$518,000** has been allocated to Foundation-affiliated schools. Financial support for the scholarship grant program is provided by the following scholarship funds:

- Melinda Bush Mentors
- John Clifford Memorial
- Cecil B. Day Memorial
- Handlery Hotels
- Conrad N. Hilton Memorial
- Creighton Holden Memorial
- Hospitality Asset Managers Association
- Steve Hymans Extended Stay
- Richard Kessler
- J. Willard Marriott Memorial
- Joseph McInerney Scholarship
- The National Restaurant Association
- Curtis C. Nelson

Additional monies for the program come from the Foundation's general scholarship fund; proceeds from its Annual Giving program; a previous capital giving campaign, Hospitality 2000; the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS); as well as annual special events such as the Big Apple Auction and Golf Classic.

Awards: \$500 - \$6,000 as recommended by the participating school and dependent upon enrollment.

Eligibility:

- Enrolled full-time in an undergraduate hospitality management degree-granting program at one of the schools listed on page 7
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 (2.0 if receiving Conrad Hilton Funds)
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- Completed 1-2 years of school depending on the program

If you're attending an AHLAF-affiliated school, request nomination through your Dean's office, or contact AHLAF at 202-864-6055 Ext 3190 or scholarships@ahlaf.org for more information.

Scholarship Availability

	INCOMING FRESHMAN	GRADUATE	HYATT	ECOLAB	AMERICAN EXPRESS	OPENING DOORS	ANNUAL GRANT	PACKARD	RAMA
Nominated by a Specific School	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class Status as of Fall '22	Incoming Freshman	Graduate	Junior or Senior	Undergrad	Undergrad	Undergrad	Junior or Senior	Junior or Senior	Any
Minimum Overall GPA	2.0	3.0	None	None	None	2.5	3.0	3.5	2.5
Must be a Minority Student	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Enrollment Status	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Full-time	Full or Part-time	Full-or part-time	Full-time	Full-time	Full or Part-time
Enrollment Fall & Spring Semesters	Yes	No, if Dec. graduate	No, if Dec. graduate	Yes	No, if Dec. graduate				
Employed 20+ hrs at a Hotel	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Letter of Recommendation	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
U.S. Citizenship or U.S. Permanent Residency	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

AHLAF Academic Scholarship Program

Affiliated Schools

Asheville-Buncombe Tech - Asheville, NC
Bethune-Cookman University – Daytona Beach, FL
Boston University – Boston, MA
California State Polytechnic University – Pomona, CA
California State University – Long Beach, CA
City College of San Francisco – San Francisco CA
Collin College – Plano, TX
Cornell University
Culinary Institute of America
DePaul University School of Hospitality Leadership
Drexel University
East Carolina University
East Stroudsburg University
Ferris State University Hospitality Management Program
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University, Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management
Florida State University - Dedman School of Hospitality
Frederick Community College - Frederick, MD
Georgia State University, Cecil B. Day School of Hospitality
Grand Valley State University
Greenville Tech - Greenville, SC
Iowa State University
IUPUI School of Health & Human Sciences
James Madison University
Johnson & Wales University Providence
Johnson and Wales University Charlotte
Kirkwood Community College - Cedar Rapids, IA
MERCYHURST University
Michigan State University - The School of Hospitality Business
Missouri State University – Springfield, MO
Morgan State University – Baltimore, MD
New Mexico State University – Las Cruces, NM
New York University – New York, NY
Niagara University – Niagara, NY
North Carolina Central University – Durham, NC
Northern Arizona University – Flagstaff, AZ
Northampton Community College -Bethlehem, PA
Northwestern State University – Natchitoches, LA
Oklahoma State University – Stillwater, OK

Paul Smith's College – Paul Smiths, NY
Pennsylvania State University – University Park, PA
Pima Community College - Tucson, AZ
Pittsburgh Technical College -Pittsburgh, PA
Purdue University – West Lafayette, IN
Pulaski Tech - Little Rock, AR
Robert Morris University – Moon Twp, PA
Rochester Institute of Technology – Rochester, NY
Salt Lake Community College - Salt Lake City, UT
San Diego State University – San Diego, CA
Stephen F. Austin University – Nacogdoches, TX
Texas Tech University
The University of Alabama
The University of Tennessee
University of Central Florida, Rosen College of Hospitality Management
University of Delaware, Department of Hospitality and Sport Business Management
University of Denver, Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management
University of the District of Columbia Community College
University of Hawaii at Manoa - School of Travel Industry Management
University of Houston
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Missouri
University of New Hampshire
University of San Francisco – San Francisco, CA
University of South Carolina – Columbia, SC
University of Southern Mississippi – Hattiesburg, MS
UNLV Harrah College of Hospitality
Valencia College - Orlando, FL
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University – Blacksburg, VA
Virginia State University – Petersburg, VA
Washington State University – Pullman, WA
Widener University – Chester, PA

Important Dates:

- Scholarship Portal opens **November 1**
- Application deadline is **March 15**
- Winners are announced in May

