



MPS and ML Continuing Education Scholarship Program Guidelines

Continuing Education Scholarship Application for Individuals with MPS or ML

The National MPS Society is very supportive of continuing education for individuals affected with MPS and ML. We recognize the challenges these individuals and their families experience and would like to encourage them to continue with their education. Selected applicants are eligible for funding of \$500 for part time enrollment and \$1,000 for full time enrollment. The following information outlines the scholarship program.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Active membership with the National MPS Society (membership may be included with Parent or Legal Guardian if applicant is a dependent).
- U.S. Resident.
- Individual affected with MPS or ML with a high school diploma or its equivalent or who is a graduating senior.
- Individual affected with MPS or ML pursuing continued education at a college, university, a professional/trade school or an alternative continuing education program.
- Copy of letter of acceptance from the college, university, school or program is required to receive the scholarship payment or copy of official transcript required for applicants currently enrolled in continuing education program.
- If currently enrolled in a continuing education program, a GPA of 2.5 or higher is required.
- Applicants are no longer eligible to apply for funds once they have received a cumulative \$5,000 in continuing education scholarships. This cap does not include any funding received through the Jeffrey Bardsley continuing education scholarship.

Process:

- 1) Only eligible applicants will be considered for funding.
- 2) Strictest confidentiality regarding application, names and funding will be maintained by the applicant and the Society. By making application, the applicant agrees to allow the Society to publicize the scholarship applicant's name and general information, such as hometown, institution attending, goals and aspirations, and specific syndrome if selected for funding. Applicant will be required to submit a brief biography to be used in Courage.
- 3) Scholarships are awarded one time each year.
- 4) Applications must be received by midnight (EST) on **March 15th**. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.
- 5) All required documentation (*the application including essay and reference*) must be received prior to the application being reviewed. During the application process, you will be asked to enter the contact information for your reference. Your reference will receive an email with specific directions on how to upload your letter of reference into the application system, which must be completed by midnight (EST) on **March 22nd**. Your reference cannot be from a relative.
- 6) Previous scholarship recipients may reapply for a scholarship by submitting the scholarship application and by maintaining a 2.5 or higher GPA. Each year's funding, however, is considered individually and should not be assumed to be awarded. Previous scholarship recipients are no longer eligible to apply for funds once they have received a cumulative \$5,000 in continuing education scholarships. This cap is not inclusive of funds received from the Jeffrey Bardsley continuing education scholarship.

- 7) An essay written in your own words (750 words or less) must accompany the application. You are strictly limited to 750 words for your essay.
- 8) The Society will issue a letter to the applicant indicating a funding decision on or before May 15th.
- 9) Once awarded the scholarship, applicant must submit an official transcript in order to verify 2.5 GPA. Funding will not occur until official transcript, proof of attendance and payment request has been submitted.
- 10) Funding will be paid directly to the attending school. Scholarship recipient must provide the Society with an acceptance letter or proof of attendance and the name and address of the office where the scholarship is to be sent. Payment release request must be made no later than December 1.

Application Review

- 1) Only complete applications will be reviewed.
- 2) All applications for funds will be reviewed by the Family Support Committee. The Committee's decision will be on a majority vote basis with each member holding a vote.
- 3) A check will be written to the institution referencing the selected applicant's name. Payment Release must be received no later than **December 1** or the scholarship will be forfeited. Special circumstances may be considered with advance written request.
- 4) The Family Support Committee's interpretation of the regulations outlining the Continuing Education Scholarship Program and any decisions, including appeals, made by the Committee are binding. The applicant has the right to appeal the Committee's final decision. Appeals can be made to the Board of Directors in writing, and must be made within 60 days. The appeal will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.
- 5) All applications will be evaluated by the Family Support Committee using essay, career goals/dreams/aspirations, personal recommendation, Society and Community involvement, and grammar, neatness and spelling as guidelines.

For questions or if you need assistance completing the application, please contact Alison Blue, Program Director at 919-806-0101 or at alison@mpssociety.org.