



MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE

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HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE LAPTOP AWARD 2021

Application Deadline – 4:00pm, Wednesday, May 12th, 2021

Thank you for your interest in submitting an application for the Milwaukee Urban League's 2021 Graduate Laptop Scholarship. We congratulate you on your decision to continue your education by attending college. Our goal is to invest financial resources to help support your education. The laptop awards criteria this year has been revised to reflect our current COVID 19 pandemic; however, we still hold high standards for our applicants.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for consideration for this award, an applicant must:

1. Be a Milwaukee County **college-bound high school senior or early graduating junior** who will graduate in **May or June 2021**.
2. Show evidence [i.e., acceptance letter(s)] for plans for full-time enrollment in a two or four-year college program.
3. Be able to attend a "Red Carpet" acceptance event on **Friday, June 11 or Saturday, June 12** and sign a media release form.
4. Meet the specific requirements of **ONE** of the following three categories:
 - **Category 1 - Academic Excellence:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of **3.0 or higher**; show excellence in core curriculum subjects throughout your 3/4 years of high school. Applicants in this category will also be required to submit two (2) letters of recommendation that highlight and confirm intellectual curiosity and exemplary academic achievement, a **transcript**, and an **essay (see Required Application Materials)**.
 - **Category 2 – Community Service/Leadership:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher and demonstrate active participation in extra-curricular activities, especially community service activities and/or display leadership abilities in school activities or through work experience. Applicants in this category will also be required to submit **(2) two** letters of recommendation that highlight and confirm exemplary community service/leadership, a **transcript**, a **list** of involvement in community service/volunteer activity and/or leadership roles/positions and an **essay (see Required Application Materials)**.
 - **Category 3 – Character Turnaround:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of 1.8 **or higher** and have faced adversity and/or overcame challenging life circumstances. The nominee must have turned his/her school performance around or must have maintained high academic standards in the face of adversity. Applicants in this category will be required to submit **(2) two** letters of recommendation from their school principal, guidance counselor, minister/clergy or a community organization (i.e., Boys and Girls Club, Boy or Girl Scouts, YWCA, etc.), a **transcript**, and an **essay (see Required Application Materials)**.

Please note: Priority will be given to students in each category who demonstrate financial need through eligibility for Free or Reduced Lunch. All students must complete one essay (Questions listed on pages 5 or 6).

Award Timeline

The following are the key dates to adhere to:

- **Friday, May 12:** Application deadline (this is a firm deadline; no exceptions).
- **Friday, May 30:** Award notification via email/USPS (**Make sure your email/phone number is current!**)
- **Friday, June 11 or Saturday, June 12:** Award presentation at Milwaukee Urban League.
Please note: All awardees must be in attendance to receive their awards. Failure to attend the designated appointment time will result in forfeiture of the award.

Selection Committee and Process

The Milwaukee Urban League has an outstanding group of community volunteers who sit on the Laptop Award Selection Committee which reviews **all** applications. Committee members are comprised of local professionals including educators, businessmen and women, and individuals who are considered experts in their field. All members share a passion for the post-secondary success of youth in the community. Additionally, each committee member commits to equality and fairness in the review of applications and selecting finalists who best fit the Award criteria.

Each member of the Laptop Award Selection Committee will be assigned applications for reviewing and scoring. Applicants with the highest scores in each category will be awarded a laptop. **Decisions of the Award Committee are final.**

Evaluation Criteria by Category

Applicants for the senior laptop award will be evaluated in one of the three (3) designated categories mentioned above, and reviewed again as follows: (**Select ONE category only!**)

1. **Category 1 - Academic Excellence:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on the quality of their high school transcript and grade point average in the specific areas of Mathematics, Science and English, and overall evidence of adequate preparation for college enrollment and future academic success, letters of recommendation, and essay.
2. **Category 2 – Community Service/Leadership:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on the scope of his/her active participation in extra-curricular activities, especially community service activities (i.e., volunteer work at school, church and/or community-based organization(s) and/or evidence of an applicant's involvement in particular activities as listed on the Community Involvement Form that demonstrate a strong desire to positively impact others and contribute to society as a leader, recommendation letters and essay.
3. **Category 3 – Character Turnaround:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on their "turn around" as a student in terms of their academic performance and/or behavior/character and overall significant growth as a student as evidenced on their transcript, letters of recommendation and essay.

APPLICATION FORM

STUDENT INFORMATION - Please type or print clearly

1.	First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:	
2.	Home Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
3.	Email:	Cellphone:		Alternate Phone:
4.	DOB: ____/____/____ <i>Month Day Year</i>	Ethnicity/Race (<i>optional</i>):	Gender:	
5.	Current High School:	School Address:	Phone:	
6.	Cumulative GPA:	Graduation Date:		
7.	Intended 2 yr. or 4 yr. College(s) or University(ies):			
8.	Have you accepted enrollment to the above-named college(s) or university(ies)? ____Yes ____No			
9.	Intended Major or Field of Study:			
10.	Will you be the first one in your family to attend college? ____Yes ____No Are you eligible to receive Free or Reduced lunch? ____Yes ____No			

I attest that all statements and documents in **and** attached to this application are true and accurate. I understand that inaccurate and misrepresentation of any information, or the inability to show evidence of plans for full-time enrollment in a two-or four-year college program, will make me ineligible for the 2021 Laptop Award.

Applicant Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION - Please type or print clearly

12.	First and Last Name:	Relationship to Applicant:		
13.	First and Last Name:	Relationship to Applicant:		
14.	Home Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
15.	Best phone number to reach you:	E-mail Address:		

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

APPLICANT RELEASE FORM

I certify that all information I have provided to the Milwaukee Urban League is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. **I give permission for Milwaukee Urban League staff and Laptop Award Selection Committee to contact my high school and/or college officials for additional academic information, and any other information related to this application, if necessary.** If selected to receive the Laptop Award, I give permission to share information contained in my application with appropriate award donors/sponsors, the Milwaukee Urban League, and the National Urban League and its affiliates. I understand that I must be in attendance at the Milwaukee Urban League's "Red Carpet" event. **scheduled for Friday, June 11 or Saturday, June 12, 2021 at the Milwaukee Urban League 435 West North Avenue.** I understand that failure to attend this event will result in possible forfeiture of my award.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please note: Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the "Red Carpet" event will be a brief dressy 10 – 20-minute individual award presentation and picture event at the Milwaukee Urban League. Each awardee will select a designated time to appear. A parent/guardian is highly encouraged to attend, and details of the event will be provided in a separate document or email upon notification of the award.

***All award winners will be required to sign a Media Release Form.**

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

All Applicants – Categories 1, 2 and 3

- Application Form** – All areas of the application form **must be completed**, signed and dated by applicant and their parent(s) or guardian(s).
- Essay** –Please ***select one of the following questions to answer in a minimum of:***
300 words – Category 1
250 words – Category 2 & Category 3
 - **How has the COVID 19 pandemic changed your view of this country, and the world, and how has it changed your educational path for service to others?**
 - **Many young people have struggled with the overall effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. What advice would you give to young people to improve their mental health and outlook on life after we get through this horrific period in history?**
 - **If you were superintendent of your respective school district, what would you have done differently to ensure that every child had equal access to technology, and received a quality educational experience during this COVID 19 learning environment?**

Applicant's essay **must state essay question** as the title/heading and be neatly typed in Arial or Times New Roman, 12 - point font, double-spaced, with applicant's name, contact information, high school, and word count in the top right corner of each page.

- Official Transcript** – All transcripts must include information on applicant's most recent available grade period. Please see individual categories for minimum grade point average requirements. **Only transcripts that are stamped or embossed with the high school's official seal will be accepted.**
- Recommendation Letters – Two (2)** signed letters of recommendation from a teacher or school staff person(s) or from community representatives (for example: clergy, employer, youth group leader, etc.) who can attest to applicant's qualifications for the selected category (1, 2, or 3.) Letters written by family members or friends are not acceptable.

Category 2 – Community Service/Leadership

- In addition to the requirements listed above, applicants in Category 2 – Community Service/Leadership must complete the Service/Volunteer/Leadership form included in this packet.

To be eligible for consideration for the **2021 High School Graduate Laptop Award**, applicants must complete and submit all required documents by **(4:00PM, Wednesday, May 12th, 2021)** via mail OR online to:

MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE
ATTN: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
435 WEST NORTH AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53212

Email as a MICROSOFT WORD or PDF DOCUMENT TO mfitzgerald@tmul.org

All materials submitted with this application become the property of the Milwaukee Urban League and will not be returned to applicants.