

Sigma Tau Delta

The International English Honor Society

SIGMA SCHOLARSHIPS

National Sigma Tau Delta offers several awards and scholarships for which GVSU students may be able to qualify. The GVSU Iota Tau Chapter is allowed to nominate three candidates per scholarship each year, except for the Study-Abroad Scholarship, for which we can nominate six.

Future Teacher Awards	\$2000
Junior/Senior/Grad Scholarships	\$2500
Regenry Scholarship	\$2500
Study Abroad Scholarships	\$2500

For information on **Sigma writing awards and publishing internships** go to:
www.english.org/pub.shtml

$\Sigma\Tau\Delta$ CHAPTER DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 1!

Begin the application process as far in advance as possible. The fall deadlines come quickly at a busy time of year, and there is a service component to the application. Sigmas may apply for more than one scholarship and may reuse materials such as essays, but each application must be newly assembled, separate, and complete. This means multiple copies of original recommendations and official transcripts.

Your *completed* application must be submitted to the chapter advisor by 1 October so it can be checked, officially nominated, and mailed by 15 October. It is helpful to make a checklist of what is required, especially if you are applying for several scholarships.

Each application consists of several sections:

- Personal information
- Academic information
- Awards and Activities, including the critical service component
- Professional goals/Professional Statement
- Application essay
 - This a concrete, personal essay that supports the year's convention theme.
 - Outstanding essays may win money irrespective of a scholarship and these are sometimes posted on the Sigma website at <http://www.english.org/winners.shtml>.
 - Study these carefully.
- Letters of recommendation and official transcripts.
 - If you apply for more than one scholarship or award, separate and original recommendations and official transcripts must be submitted for *each* application. This means each faculty member who is writing a recommendation for you must make two copies of his/her recommendation and sign them both in ink. "Official" transcripts means

those produced by the Registrar's Office and stamped or embossed. Downloaded transcripts are not "official."

As with all Sigma scholarship applications, *pay strict attention to the exact requirements or your application will be disqualified.* Yes, they really are that nit-picking, and yes they will check *everything*. Double and triple check each item to make certain you have complied with exactly what is asked and have done so without mistakes of any kind. Cover sheets and statements to be signed must be downloaded for *each* scholarship from the Sigma website at <http://www.english.org>.

Any of the following problems will disqualify your application:

- Using an incorrect format, leaving out parts of the application, omitting the correct number of copies of any part of the application, putting the pieces together in the wrong order
- Omitting signatures on the cover page
- Omitting the original copies of each recommendation, having original recommendations sent separately from the application itself, omitting the correct number of copies of official recommendations, submitting recommendations that exceed the maximum length requirement
- Misrepresenting coursework or the GPA(s) for that coursework
- Submitting an essay that exceeds the maximum length requirement
- Submitting the wrong application for your status (year in college)
- Submitting a plagiarized essay or paper (all submissions will be checked)
- Submitting an essay with punctuation or grammar mistakes (PROOFREAD!)

ΣΤΔ WINNING QUALIFICATIONS

Judges determine winners by giving scores in two areas:

- a) academics/ service
- b) application essay(s)

Scores by judges are totaled, and then academics/service scores are weighted to the essay component in a 3:1 ratio (academics/service being the larger number).

Judges decide individually how much emphasis to put on academics as opposed to service; however, service to Sigma Tau Delta, to the chapter, to the home institution, and to the community is always an important component. When so many applicants are of such high caliber academically, service may be *the* distinguishing feature of an application.

Obviously, students who contribute to their Sigma chapters and who do service (volunteer) work in their communities are more likely to receive money. This may seem like a hardship, but being active in Sigma and also doing service work outside campus builds resumes. This makes getting a job easier, so it's a win-win situation. If you have an idea for a service project that needs money, you can also write a Sigma Project Grant. This makes your resume look even stronger! Information on Project Grants is at <http://www.english.org/grants.shtml>. If you have an idea for a project that needs funding, contact the Sigma advisor for help writing a grant.

ΣΤΔ FUTURE TEACHER AWARD

Complete information is at http://www.english.org/pdf/awards/awd_somr.pdf

This award is for seniors who will begin teaching the fall following graduation. There are two essays required: a short personal statement about teaching (one-two paragraphs), and a 200-400 word essay on the convention theme of the year you are applying. The convention theme will be listed on the Sigma website at <http://www.english.org/conventions.shtml>.

The Professional Statement for this application should include **educational theory grounded in practice**. The Sigma committee has written:

Judges have commented in the past that only the best students in English should be representing us in the field of education. Judges may also appreciate the grounding of abstract theory in specific methods, especially those that may be particular to the demands of teaching English. For example, you may theorize that all students can learn to write complete sentences, but judges probably would also be interested in why you believe this is important and how you might apply your theory in a classroom.

It would also be smart to describe how the award money will be used to further your educational practice as described in your Professional Statement. The judges will be more impressed with your application if they know the money will be used to fund a teaching-related activity.

ΣΤΔ JUNIOR/SENIOR/GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Complete information at http://www.english.org/pdf/scholarships/schol_jrsr.pdf

Students apply for these based on the year in school: juniors apply in their junior year, seniors in their senior year, graduate students while they are in graduate school. Seniors who are awarded scholarships must be enrolled in school the year following their award.

ΣΤΔ REGNERY SCHOLARSHP

Complete information is at: http://www.english.org/pdf/scholarships/schol_reg.pdf

This application is nearly the same as the Junior/Senior/Grad Awards, **except that it requires a sample essay written for an English class**. The instructor for that class must verify you wrote the paper for that class. If you're applying for a J/S/G award, and you also have an excellent essay or are writing one, you might as well apply for the Regnery as well.

ΣΤΔ STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

Complete information is at:

http://www.english.org/pdf/scholarships/schol_abroad.pdf

The requirements for this application are the same as the J/S/G scholarship, **except** applicants must write an additional essay to explain how studying abroad is relevant to their degree and to the discipline of English. In other words, how will studying in a foreign country in a foreign language help you become a better English teacher?

For this award, GVSU can nominate up to six applicants each year in two cycles. There are two deadlines: 30 October for study abroad in winter term, and 30 March for study abroad in fall term.

