



Scholarship Scheme

Overview

The National Council of Nigerian Muslim Organizations, USA (NCNMO) has witnessed tremendous growth in membership and member chapters since its inauguration, offering various religious programs/activities to its members. The Board of Trustees (BOT) in conjunction with the Executive Board set up a Scholarship Committee in April 2016 to establish and implement a befitting scholarship scheme for our youths in Colleges/ Universities in the United States of America. The NCNMO Scholarship Scheme is expected to:

- Promote academic scholarship among the youth of member chapters.
- Help Nigerian-American Muslim youth who may not otherwise be able to afford college.
- Increase participation of youth in NCNMO programs

Functions of the Scholarship Committee

- ***Set the criteria and amount to be given to successful candidates.***
 - The committee will set unbiased guidelines that ensures fairness to all eligible applicants and also determine a reasonable amount of money for each category.
- ***Design an application form for the program.***
 - The form to be designed should contain all necessary information to assist the team in making credible decisions. Information including but not limited to the application due date, applicant consent to publish name, etc.
- ***Call for applications and award scholarships.***
 - The committee will, through the chapters, call for applications from eligible candidates.
- ***Review all applications and award scholarships to deserving students.***
- ***Integrate an award ceremony into the program at Platform.***
- ***Publish names of successful candidates and their chapters on the organization's outlets.***
 - Broadcasting the names of the winners will serve as a motivating factor for more participation among the youth.

Scholarship Categories

Scholarships will be awarded in four (4) categories. An applicant can ONLY apply in one category each year.

Category 1: College freshmen in their first semester.

Category 2: College sophomores through graduate students.

Category 3: Needs Based: College freshmen through graduate students.

Category 4: Islamic Education Scholarship

There are six (6) sub-categories for the Islamic Education scholarship award as follows:

4a: College first-year students enrolled in their first semester in an acceptable* program.

4b: College sophomores, through graduate students enrolled in an acceptable* program.

Hifz and 'Aalim Programs

4c: Students who have completed an 'Aalim program at an acceptable* institution not earlier than two years before the scholarship application date.

4d: Students who have completed memorization of 30 Juz' of the Quran at a n acceptable* institution not earlier than two years before the scholarship application date.

4e: Students enrolled at an acceptable* institution and have completed memorization of 15 Juz' or more of the Holy Quran.

4f: Students who are at least halfway through in an 'Aalim program at an acceptable* institution.

* See more details on the Islamic Education category in the accompanying document titled "*Guidelines for NCNMO Islamic Education Scholarship Award*"

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Category 1

- Essay on a chosen topic (see below for prompt and grading criteria)
- Possess a minimum overall high school GPA of 3.5 on their HS transcript.
- Attach a personal statement.
- Eligible to apply for category 2 scholarships as rising sophomores.

Category 2

- Possess a cumulative 3.0 GPA on the most recent transcript.
- Submit two letters of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- Attach a personal statement.
- Applicants may not receive an award from this category more than once.

Category 3 (Needs Based)

- Possess a cumulative 2.0 GPA on the most recent transcript.
- Submit two letters of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- Phone numbers and email addresses for Masjid President, Secretary, and Imam.
- Submit a financial aid award letter from their colleges/universities.
- Provide a brief statement about their financial need and what they would use the award for.
- Attach a personal statement.
- Applicants may receive an award in this category twice, but priority will be given to applicants who have not received awards previously.

Category 4 (Islamic Education)

Category 4a

- Essay on Seeratu nNabawwi (biography of the prophet), or a chosen topic by NCNMO Shura / Scholarship Committee.
- Possess a minimum overall high school GPA of 3.5 on their high school transcript.
- Attach a statement of purpose for their Islamic academic pursuit.
- Eligible to apply for category 4b scholarships as rising sophomores.

Category 4b

- Possess a cumulative 3.0 GPA on the most recent transcript.
- Submit two letters of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- Attach a statement of purpose for their Islamic academic pursuit.
- Applicants may not receive an award from this category more than once.

Category 4c

- Graduation/completion of an 'Aalim program from acceptable institutions, and verified by a letter, transcripts, and records from the institution.
- Submit a letter of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- Attach a statement of purpose for their Islamic academic pursuit ('Aalim program).
- If there are more than one applicant in this category, the Shura will conduct a quiz/assessment of the candidates and provide the scores and ranking list to the scholarship committee.
- Awardees will not be eligible to apply for a second time under this category.

Category 4d

- Completion of Hifz program (full memorization of 30 Juz' of the Quran) must be certified by the Imam of his/her chapter.
- Submit a letter of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- If there are more than one applicant in this category, the Shura will conduct a quiz/assessment of the candidates and provide the scores and ranking list to the scholarship committee.
- Awardees will not be eligible to apply for a second time under this category.

Category 4e

- Progress towards memorization of the Holy Quran (at least 15 Juz' or more) must be certified by the Imam of his/her chapter.
- Submit a letter of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- If there are more than one applicant in this category, the Shura will conduct a quiz/assessment of the candidates and provide the scores and ranking list to the scholarship committee.
- Awardees will be eligible to apply for a second time under category 4d, after completing the Hifz program and obtaining their Ijazah or certificate but priority will be given to applicants who have not received awards previously.

Category 4f

- Progress in an 'Aalim program will be verified by a letter and transcripts/records from an acceptable institution.
- Submit a letter of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- Attach a statement of purpose for their Islamic academic pursuit ('Aalim program).
- If there are more than one applicant in this category, the Shura will conduct a quiz/assessment of the candidates and provide the scores and ranking list to the scholarship committee.
- Awardees will be eligible to apply for a second time under category 4c, after completing the 'Aalim program and obtaining their Ijazah or certificate but priority will be given to applicants who have not received awards previously.

For all categories

- Applications must be submitted on or before the **31st of October each year.**

Application Procedure

To apply for the scholarship, interested students are required to:

- Complete the application form on the NCNMO website: <https://ncnmo.org/scholarship/>
- Attach transcripts and letters of recommendation to their online application.
- No documents should be emailed.
- E-mail scholarship@ncnmo.org for inquiries or clarifications only.

NCNMO SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORY 1 ESSAY

SAMPLE PROMPT (This should change each year):

Over the last few years, we've seen the world transform multiple times. We were quickly reminded of how many things are out of our control and how uncertain the future may be. However, amid all that has occurred, one thing that has remained constant is the importance of community.

What does community mean to you?
Has your definition changed over time? If so, why?
What role has your community played in your development?
Do you feel that it has shaped your values?
Who does it include?
If we speak to these people, what do you feel they would say about you?

Please answer in an essay between 2-4 pages, double-spaced in 12pt font.

GRADING CRITERIA: 1-4 (4 being the highest score)

Answered all questions in a prompt	Spelling/Punctuation	Articulation/Understanding of Prompt	Length and Font size requirement
1: 0-1 Questions Answered	1 excessive spelling and punctuation errors	1 idea was incomplete unclear and/or off-topic	1 0-1 page or 4+ pages, larger or smaller than 12pt size font
2: 1-2 Questions Answered	2 substantial spelling or punctuation errors	2 few moments of clarity but it is mostly confusing	2 N/A
3: 3-4 Questions Answered	3 occasional spelling and punctuation errors	3 mostly clear and detailed writing with a few moments off-subject, or non-incisive	3 N/A
4: All 5 questions answered	4 few to no spelling or punctuation errors	4 clear, concise developed ideas about the prompt	4 2-4 Pages, 12 pt font

Each judge will take an average of each essay score to submit (the highest average would be 4.0). Each essay would then take the average of all judges to come up with the final score average. (For example, if there are 5 judges, each judge would read each essay and give each essay an average score based on the criteria. The average score of each essay from each judge would then be added up and divided by the number of judges (5) to get the total essay average score.) The top two students with the highest average are awarded scholarships. If there is a tie with more than 3 or more students, judges must reevaluate and place a vote to narrow down to the top two.

Guidelines for the Award of Scholarships

The committee will adhere to the following guidelines in awarding scholarships:

Applicants are required to apply in only one category however those who are qualified are strongly encouraged to apply in the Islamic Education category (Category 4) the four categories would be treated separately.

A candidate can only receive a scholarship once in a given category, and not more than twice across all categories during any five-year period.

1. Scholarships awarded will be spread out among all chapters as much as possible, to award no more than one scholarship per category per chapter.
2. Depending on the number of applicants that apply from the various chapters, scholarships may be awarded to applicants from the same chapter in two (2) different categories if there are not enough qualified candidates from other chapters.
3. Eligible candidates will receive the set amount for that year (donation may change).
4. If there are not enough qualified applicants, the scholarship funds will be carried over to the following year.
5. Only candidates presently in colleges/ universities are eligible for the scholarships except those in Hifz/Aalim programs.
6. The BOT will assist with the publicity about the scholarship award program including highlighting the program on the NCNMO website, sending information about the program to chapters, and general publicity in newsletters and social media platforms.
7. The Shura will assist in identifying some Islamic organizations that are willing to sponsor our Islamic Education scholarship program.
8. The information about the scholarship award program will be included in the annual Platform registration information.
9. Applications must be submitted on or before the 15th of November
10. The committee will review applications in November and make final recommendations to the BOT by December 1st.