

WTS Orange County Undergraduate Scholarships

The Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) is an international organization of transportation professionals with more than 8,000 members, who are committed to excellence in the transportation industry. WTS seeks to break down historic barriers to entry and obstacles to success within the transportation industry by providing a neutral forum for the exchange of information, ideas, experiences, and professional development opportunities. WTS supports the professional advancement of its members and promotes industry recognition of women in the field of transportation. Part of WTS' goal of fostering the development of women in transportation can be realized by encouraging bright new professionals to take careers in the field.

In 2022, the WTS Orange County (WTS-OC) Chapter awarded 11 scholarships to students – for a total of \$50,000. The number of scholarships and the amounts for the 2023 academic year will be determined following a review of the applications received.

The minimum criteria for selection are as follows:

- ✧ Open to Undergraduate students graduating after December 2023.
- ✧ Open to women only.
- ✧ GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- ✧ Currently enrolled in a degree program in a transportation-related field, such as civil engineering, transportation engineering or planning, aviation, transit, rail, business management, finance, or logistics with a focus on public policy.
- ✧ Currently enrolled in a school within Orange County, a current resident of Orange County or currently/have previous work experience in Orange County.

The scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific transportation involvement and goals, job skills, and academic record. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- ✧ Coursework, curriculum, academic performance, and recommendation
- ✧ Intent to pursue a career in transportation in Orange County
- ✧ Commitment to transportation as demonstrated by extracurricular activities and/or work experience
- ✧ Personal statement (writing and communication skills)

Applications must be completed and submitted online [WTS-OC Undergraduate Scholarship Online Application](#), or downloaded and scanned as **a single PDF**, and e-mailed to the Scholarship Committee at wtsocscholarship@gmail.com no later than **5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, August 4, 2023**.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Can I apply for more than one WTS-OC Scholarship Level per year?

A: No. You may only apply for your respective level of study per year. For example, if you are an Undergraduate Student, you would apply for the WTS-OC Undergraduate Scholarship only. If you are a High School Student, you would apply for the WTS-OC High School Scholarship only.

Q: The person I asked to write my Letter of Recommendation would like to send to you directly. Is that allowed?

A: Yes. Though we prefer to have a complete package submitted, if your Recommender would prefer to send us your Letter of Recommendation directly, please have them include your name, the scholarship you are applying for, and “Letter of Recommendation” in an e-mail subject line, and e-mail us at wtsocscholarship@gmail.com. Please remember, Letter of Recommendations must be signed and completed on Official Letterhead.

Q: Am I eligible to apply if I’m currently attending a school outside of Orange County, but am a resident from Orange County? Am I eligible to apply if I’m not a resident of Orange County, but I’m currently attending a school in Orange County?

A: Yes, and yes. You must address your connection to Orange County’s transportation industry within your Personal Statement.

Q: What qualifies as “Proof of Current Enrollment?”

A: You may submit an official “Proof of Enrollment,” statement or letter from your school. A screenshot or print out of your current class schedule with valid dates of the current year, semester, and/or quarter would also be accepted. If your current Student ID shows valid dates of your current year, semester, and/or quarter, a scan of the front and back of your Student ID would work as well.

Q: I’m currently in my first semester/quarter of undergraduate/graduate study. How do I provide a copy of my Official Transcript, when I have not completed courses yet?

A: If you are in your first semester/quarter of your undergraduate study, you may submit an Official Transcript from your High School. If you are in your first semester/quarter of your graduate study, you may submit an Official Transcript from your Undergraduate School.

Note: Your application will not be considered if you do not submit a copy of your transcript and letter(s) of recommendation on official letterhead, along with all other application materials in one PDF by the date and time listed above.

Should you have any other questions, please contact wtsocscholarship@gmail.com.

The top winners of the WTS Orange County Scholarship may go on to compete nationally for the following scholarship:

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship honors Sharon D. Banks, chief executive officer of AC Transit in Alameda-Contra Costa County, California. As its CEO throughout most of the 1990's, Banks led the agency in a pioneering effort to introduce cultural and organizational changes aimed at motivating the public transit workforce. She was a member of the WTS Advisory Board and received the WTS San Francisco Chapter Woman of the Year and Employer of the Year awards.

The Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship amount is to be determined at a later date.

Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates

The purpose of the WTS Molitoris Leadership Scholarship is to motivate and reward women who demonstrate leadership in the transportation industry. The leadership, skills, and perspectives of women are essential to assure that the transportation systems of the future respond to the needs of all. Leadership does not just happen. Leaders personally invest and risk much. They must take on struggles that many would avoid and persevere to reach successful outcomes. These qualities should receive special attention in the selection of the award winner.

The Molitoris Leadership Scholarship is for undergraduates and the award amount is to be determined at a later date.

WTS Orange County Undergraduate Scholarship Application

I. Personal Information

Name _____
Last First Middle

Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

E-mail address _____

Primary Phone (____) _____

Current Address (*Street, City, State, Zip*): _____

Permanent Address (*Street, City, State, Zip*): _____

II. Educational Background

Current College/University _____ City, State _____

Student ID Number _____

Expected Date of Graduation _____

Degree(s) to be Received _____

Area(s) of Concentration _____

Grade Point Average _____

(Minimum GPA of 3.0 required.)

Previous Colleges/Universities/Schools Attended, Date and Degree(s) Earned, and GPA:

Professional or School Affiliations (*List any school, professional or community activities you have participated in. Include offices held and awards received. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as typed word documents.*)

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III. Employment History

Work Experience (*List full-time, part-time, co-op and summer employment. Briefly describe duties and responsibilities. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as typed word documents.*)

IV. Recommendation: One signed letter of recommendation by a professor, school counselor, or employer must accompany your application. Letter must be on official letterhead.

V. Personal Statement: A statement about your career goals after graduation and why you think that you should receive the scholarship award. Applicants must address the issue of leadership, its importance in a transportation career, and the applicant's leadership achievements. Statement should not exceed 500 words. Please attach to the application form.

VI. Proof of Enrollment: Attach a copy of your tuition receipt or current registration card.

VII. Transcript: Obtain a copy of your transcript from your school's Registrar and have it emailed to yourself. Print and scan the copy of your transcript, and include it with your application packet. Please note that if you are selected as a winner, you will be required to submit an **official transcript**.

VIII. Provide a Short Biography: A brief (75-100 words) biographical summary written in 3rd person perspective to be included in the event program if you are selected as a winner. Please attach to application form as a typed word document. Here's an example:

Jane Doe is a Civil Engineering major at the University of California, Irvine. In the future, she aspires to own a civil engineering consulting company. Her goal is to help build safe infrastructure and improve the current transportation system in the US. She is an active member of WTS-OC Student Chapter and has worked as an intern at the City.

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IX. Other Information:

Are you applying for a scholarship from another WTS Chapter? If yes, *please provide the Chapter.*

How did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

Applicant
Signature _____ Date _____