

# MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP

## For Graduate Training in School Psychology

Sponsored by the

Massachusetts School Psychologists Association, Inc.

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The Massachusetts School Psychologists Association  
[www.mspa-online.com](http://www.mspa-online.com)

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**\*\*Once you have completed your application, please mail all materials to:**  
Suzanne Waldron, Co-Chair Minority Affairs Committee  
266 Essex Street, Unit 5  
Salem, MA 01970

# **MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP**

## **For Graduate Training in School Psychology**

### **Mission Statement**

MSPA is aware of the need for a more aggressive approach to relieve financial pressures faced by minority students pursuing careers in school psychology. The MSPA Minority Scholarship Program was established to address this need in our Commonwealth's schools. To help foster and encourage diversity in the profession, the Association will annually award \$2,000 to at least one qualified and select graduate student in school psychology.

MSPA believes that all students, especially those who are from minority groups, would benefit from the availability of more minority school psychologists. The minority population in the U.S. has been growing at a great rate. In addition, 45% of the Boston residents come from a minority group. However, the number of practicing minority school psychologists does not reflect these statistics. Many parents and students are requesting that the school psychologist reflect the population that they serve.

Professional preparation to become a school psychologist usually requires a full-time commitment and the stringent requirements result in a further reduction in the number of minorities who have the financial resources to pursue this career. One has to be able to afford both the tuition and living expenses-- a difficult situation for many minority students. Lack of funding and geographic access to these programs makes it difficult for minority students to pursue a career in school psychology. The scholarship program was established to address these concerns.

# MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP

## Application Information

### Eligibility

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To be considered for this scholarship, the candidate must:

- Be enrolled in a NASP-approved or regionally accredited school psychology program in Massachusetts
- Be a United States citizen
- Be in good academic standing
- Have a minimum cumulative overall GPA of 3.0

IMPORTANT: Doctoral candidates will not be considered for this award. Only those students enrolled in a CAGS school psychology training program will be considered for this scholarship award.

### Selection Criteria

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The documents requested under the Application Deadline and Procedures will be reviewed by the Minority Scholarship Selection Committee. In reaching their decision, the Selection Committee will consider the content and completeness of the application; the applicant's experience, interests and growth as reflected on their resume; the applicant's personal statement; accomplishments; references; financial standing; and degree of scholarship. If the applicant is selected as a scholarship recipient, a signed statement affirming these conditions will be required prior to payment being made.

### Notification

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The recipient(s) of this scholarship will invited to the MSPA June dinner meeting. In addition, each recipient will be awarded MSPA membership for the duration of the scholarship.

### Application Deadline and Procedures

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To be considered for this scholarship award, the entire application package MUST be received by the MSPA Minority Scholarship committee **by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.**

**IMPORTANT: You will not be considered for this award if ALL application materials and supporting documents are not contained together in one package and received by the MSPA representative by the deadline.**

## Application Procedures

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- Completed General Information (page 5).
- Completed University Information & Completed Certification of Program Acceptance (page 6).
- At least two (2) letters of recommendation. The student must have at least one letter from a faculty member of their school psychology program (see page 7).
- Completed Verification of Application (page 8).
- Resume.
- Statement of Professional Goals (approximately 1,000 words).
- Official transcript of all undergraduate and graduate course work. This would include providing ALL official undergraduate AND graduate transcripts, through the highest level completed. Transfer transcripts are accepted so long as the transcript which displays the transferred credits is submitted in “official” form as described previously.

You may also include a brief statement (limit: one page) about any special circumstances you feel the Selection Committee should consider in evaluating your application, and/or a brief summary (limit: one page) of personal accomplishments or activities.

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## Letters of Recommendation

For consideration by the person submitting a Letter of Recommendation on behalf of the Applicant:

The MSPA Minority Scholarship is awarded to minority students enrolled in school psychology programs in the United States. The student whose name appears above is applying for this scholarship. The Selection Committee would appreciate your help as they consider his/her application. In your Letter of Recommendation, please respond to the questions that follow as fully as you can:

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
2. What are the applicant's strengths and special talents?
3. One of the criteria that this applicant must meet is interest in pursuing and /or continuing to pursue a degree and a career in school psychology. Please give your assessment of the applicant's interest in this area.
4. Interpersonal skills are important when dealing with schools, outside agencies, parents, and so on. Please give your assessment of the applicant's interpersonal skills.

Please return your recommendation letter directly to the student who will include it in his/her application package. **Do not send your recommendation to MSPA.**

## Applicant Release

For completion by the Applicant:

An originally signed copy of this release must accompany EACH Letter of Recommendation submitted in the application package. Please make copies of this page and complete for each Letter of Recommendation you submit.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize the person writing this Letter of  
(applicant's name)

Recommendation (\_\_\_\_\_) to release any and all  
(name of person)

information called for on this form to the MSPA Minority Scholarship.

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Applicant Signature

Date

## **Verification of Application**

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the conditions of this application; the information contained and included within is true, complete and correct; and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I am eligible to receive this Scholarship as defined by the Minority Affairs Scholarship of the Massachusetts School Psychologists Association.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_