

Georgia Gerontology Society Student Scholarships 2026 Information & Application

The purpose of the GGS Scholarship Awards is to offer financial support to persons committed to embarking upon, or seeking to advance, a career in aging. The fund provides scholarships for study to promote leadership development in the field of aging and careers serving older adults 55 years & older.

While GGS recognizes the importance of research, **scholarship funds are sent directly to the student's institution and can only be applied to tuition and fees.**

<u>Robert P. Wray Scholarship Award</u> (Undergraduate)	<u>Virginia M. Smyth Scholarship Award</u> (Graduate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$8,500 scholarship awarded in Fall 2026 (if graduating in Spring or Summer of 2026, you are not eligible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$10,000 scholarship awarded in Fall 2026 (if graduating in Spring or Summer of 2026, you are not eligible)
<p><i>Final award amounts are determined in coordination with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and may be adjusted based on the recipient's total financial aid package.</i></p> <p><u>Both Scholarships Include</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-year GGS membership renewal and complimentary registration, mileage, and hotel accommodations to the 2026 GGS Annual Conference held on July 27-29th, at Lanier Islands Resort in Buford, Georgia. Recognition at the GGS Award Ceremony on Tuesday, July 28th, 2026. 	

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for the Robert P. Wray \$8500 Undergraduate Scholarship: the student must have completed a minimum of one academic term (semester or quarter) and fulfill at least one of the following, (a) have a minimum of one fall academic term remaining or (b) hold a letter of admission to a graduate program to begin no later than the next fall term.

Eligibility for the Virginia M. Smyth \$10000 Graduate Scholarship: the student must have completed a minimum of one academic term (semester or quarter) in a graduate program and must have a minimum of one fall academic term remaining in a graduate program.

Additional Requirements for Both Scholarships

All candidates must:

- Be a GGS member*
- Be enrolled in either an undergraduate or graduate program in gerontology or another field with a focus on aging at a Georgia college or university**
- Demonstrate leadership potential and a commitment to older persons
- Have achieved a strong academic record

Consideration is subject to board review.

** If applying for a GGS membership would create a financial burden, please describe this in your statement of financial need.*

*** Colleges and Universities with a Georgia campus are also eligible.*

Not a member of GGS? You can visit <https://georgiagerontologysociety.org/membership/> to read about the benefits and apply for student membership. Financial need will be a consideration, but not a sole determinant. If you have won a GGS scholarship previously, you are eligible to apply in a different category but cannot win the same scholarship more than once.

Materials to be Submitted

- The following items should be emailed by the student to administrator@georgiagerontologysociety.org. Include **GGS Scholarship in the subject line**.
 - Demographic Sheet (Included in these instructions)
 - A 500 words or less essay describing career goals and commitment to the field of aging
 - A 250 words or less statement of financial need
 - A current résumé or Curriculum Vita

- Two letters of recommendation from a professor or professional familiar with the student's abilities/accomplishments/goals. Letters may be sent in one of two ways:
 - Emailed on letterhead to administrator@georgiagerontologysociety.org from the recommender.
 - Letters can also be mailed on letterhead to P.O. Box 570693 Atlanta, GA 30357. Letters should be in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature across the seal.

- Official transcript from current college or university. Electronic transcripts from the college or university are permitted. Please have the transcript emailed to administrator@georgiagerontologysociety.org. If the transcript is being mailed, the official transcript must be in the university's sealed envelope and mailed to P.O. Box 570693 Atlanta, GA 30357.

Applicants selected for an award may be asked to provide financial aid documentation to determine final award amount.

** If applying for an official transcript would create a financial burden, please contact us at administrator@georgiagerontologysociety.org.*

Submission Deadline

The application and all supporting documents must be received by 11:59 PM on May 29, 2026. **Please note that mailed documents must be in hand (not postmarked) by May 29, 2026.** Recipients will be notified of the committee's decision by June 8, 2026. The application can be accessed at [Student Scholarship Application](#).