



## ALUMNI CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE / Frequently Asked Questions

### How did this initiative start, and why are some chapters raising money for a chapter scholarship?

The first Alumni Chapter Scholarship was started by the Tampa Chapter. The leaders of this chapter had a desire to promote a culture of philanthropy amongst alumni in their city and encourage support for gifts of any size that would make a meaningful impact on a UGA student. Their hope is that by awarding a scholarship to an incoming student from their city, the recipients of the Tampa Alumni Chapter Scholarship will 'pay it forward' when they are alumni through their giving to UGA.

### Which chapters are currently raising money to endow a chapter scholarship?

The following chapters are currently working with Development/Alumni Relations to raise funds for a chapter scholarship:

- Atlanta, GA
- Austin, TX
- Charlotte, NC
- Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
- Houston, TX
- Saint Louis, MO.
- San Diego, CA.
- Washington, D.C.

### How much money does a chapter need to raise to create an endowed scholarship?

A minimum of \$25,000 must be received to create an endowed scholarship. After this minimum has been received at the UGA Foundation, the funds will be transferred to the UGA Endowment, where they must be held for one year before a distribution will be made for a scholarship award.

### How much time do chapters have to raise the minimum needed to endow their scholarship?

Chapters have five years to raise the minimum \$25,000, but chapters are encouraged to complete the fundraising within 12-36 months.

### How are scholarship recipients selected?

Alumni Chapter Scholarships are administered and selected through Admissions. There is no other application that a student must complete in order to be considered for these scholarships. The Office of Admissions reviews and selects for these scholarships as they review for admissions to the university. Admissions will take into account each chapter scholarship's geographic location preference as they are awarding these funds.

Alumni are not able to help select students due to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.) Passed by Congress in 1974, the act grants four specific rights to the student. These rights begin as soon as the student enrolls or registers with an academic program of the university. UGA must comply with FERPA regulations or risk severe penalties.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**



## ALUMNI CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE / Frequently Asked Questions

### Will our chapter be able to meet our scholarship recipient?

If a chapter is interested in meeting their scholarship recipient, Alumni Relations will contact Lauren Schlesinger in the Office of Donor Relations and Stewardship.

Lauren works closely with Admissions to follow federal guidelines ensuring that our students' privacy is protected. Since Chapter Scholarships are merit-based, the directory information on your recipient can be shared annually. If a student does not wish to meet their donor, it is his/her right to decline this request. While all efforts to coordinate a meeting or receive a thank you note are made, this stewardship cannot be guaranteed.

### What other stewardship will donors receive?

The Office of Donor Relations and Stewardship will provide the following stewardship annually to the current Chapter Presidents:

- Financial Endowment Report mailed in November
- Gratitude Report mailed in Spring (pending the scholarship recipient's participation in writing a thank you message)

Other stewardship touches may be included by the Office of Alumni Relations.

### How do I know if my chapter is ready to take the next step?

Currently, we are at capacity working with 8 other chapters. If your chapter meets the standards for readiness below, feel free to reach out to Sarah Sonenberg in Alumni Relations to get your chapter added to the wait list. As current chapters reach their endowment minimums, we will add new chapters, and priority will be given to chapters that meet the standards below:

- My chapter is eager to support a scholarship in our city.
- Our chapter events are well attended. (Be prepared to give some examples to Alumni Relations/Development)
- The current chapter leaders are ready to make a gift at a level they are comfortable with to get our scholarship started.
- The current chapter leaders can provide some leads to Development to reach out to alumni in our city for a more significant gift to the scholarship (\$2,500-\$5,000)
- Our chapter understands that we cannot raise funds for the initial \$25,000 through special event fundraising (auctions, raffles, etc.)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**