



SWANA Harvey Gershman Scholarship Program

Application and Eligibility Information

I. AWARDS:

SWANA intends to give one Category II award of \$5,000 to a rising college/university junior or senior each year. Depending on the number and quality of applications, SWANA reserves the right to give more or fewer awards in this category and to adjust the number of awards in its other scholarship categories.

I. ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to apply for SWANA's Category II Scholarship, you must satisfy all the following requirements:

- Be enrolled full-time in college or university for the period of time the scholarship will be used
- Be entering your junior or senior year of undergraduate studies
- Be pursuing a degree in an environmental science or studies area, engineering, business, etc.
- SWANA Sponsor—you can satisfy this in one of two ways:
 - Become a SWANA Student Member. This is free to full-time students and you can join by visiting [SWANA.org/community/membership/student-membership](https://www.swana.org/community/membership/student-membership). This also provides you access to other SWANA benefits OR
 - Be the natural, adopted, or stepchild, or grandchild of a SWANA member in good standing who will act as your Sponsor.
- SWANA employees and their family members are not eligible to apply. Beyond those exceptions, SWANA commits that all eligible persons shall have equal access to this program.

Deadlines:

May 4, 2026 – Application Deadline

June 12, 2026 – Recipients Notified

II. CRITERIA:

The Scholarship Committee evaluates the Harvey Gershman Scholarship applications as follows:

Academics = 30%

SWANA's Scholarship Committee considers past academic performance an important selection criterion. Your application must provide enough information to allow the Scholarship Committee to evaluate your academic performance.

REQUIRED: Provide a transcript of your college/university transcripts up to the conclusion of the most recent period (quarter, trimester, semester).

An official, unofficial, or PDF copy of your transcript is required to be attached *to the application sent to the Chapter and forwarded to SWANA*. The transcript must provide marks for all courses and a measure of your academic performance when measured on the school's standardized scoring system. Identify the scale used (e.g., 4.0 on a 4.0 scale). An example of one possible measure satisfying this request for US based students is grade point average (GPA). SWANA acknowledges that not all schools use this measure and will accept other measures documented by the transcript.

OPTIONAL: Attach documentation of any other college/university-level academic performance, awards, or recognition and/or letters of recommendation related to academic performance you believe the Scholarship Committee should consider.





Relationship of Studies to Solid Waste Management = 50%

The Committee will consider your current and completed courses, advisor/professor input, and your completed essay in its evaluations.

- **REQUIRED:** Complete the form that asks for additional information about coursework related to solid waste or resource management and/or a potential career in the industry.
- **REQUIRED:** Please have your faculty advisory or a key professor in your studies related to solid waste or resource management provide a one-page letter that discusses your academic performance.
- **REQUIRED:** Write a one-page, original essay about the topic identified in Question 4. SWANA considers each essay for its potential as a blog post on social media, regardless of selection for a Scholarship.

Other Activities = 20%

Other Activities are activities and programs that can be connected with your studies (research, internships, assistantships), associated with school (participation student organizations), or entirely unrelated (volunteer activities, military service, employment).

- **REQUIRED:** Complete the forms that ask for information about your other activities.
- **OPTIONAL:** Attach a current copy of your resume.

Describe what you did and how often you participated. Attach documentation and/or letters of recommendation to help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score this part of your application.

Financial Need—not weighted

OPTIONAL: Although it is not a weighted factor, the Scholarship Committee can take financial need into consideration. Some chapters may also consider financial need in their review of applications. Please *do not attach forms that contain confidential personal information*.

Disqualification

Applying is not a guarantee of funding. The Scholarship Committee may disqualify an application for any of the following reasons.

- Applicant fails to meet the May 4 deadline for submitting the application
- Applicant will not be enrolled in classes in the coming semester
- Applicant does not provide all REQUIRED supporting documentation
- Application contains an essay or substantial parts of an essay written by another person
- Application is not legible
- Application is not signed or certified by the applicant in each spot indicated.

