

Scholarship Opportunities for Hospitality Students



Hundreds of scholarships are available through the American Hotel & Lodging Foundation to help college students further their studies and ultimately build a rewarding career in hospitality

Don't think your GPA or financial need is high enough? Think again. A commitment to hospitality is all you need (and a few minimum requirements), and with more than \$1 million in scholarships available, there's sure to be at least one that's right for you.

HOW WILL I BE EVALUATED?

Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate hospitality-related degree-granting program, with the exception of the Rama and Graduate scholarships, at a U.S. college or university. Qualifying majors include programs such as hotel/restaurant management, culinary arts, travel/tourism, and hotel administration. Each scholarship has additional requirements as well, so be sure to read them all before deciding which ones to apply for.

Applicants will be evaluated on academics, related work experience, extracurricular activities, financial need, honors, and personal attributes, but we're looking for more than a "cookie cutter" profile.

IS IT WORTH MY TIME?

With nine different scholarship programs and more than \$1 million to hand out to a few hundred recipients, it's never been easier to get tuition and textbook money. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$7,500, and unlike a loan, AHLA Foundation awards never needs to be paid back.

It takes less than an hour to apply.

YOU GET MORE THAN JUST A SCHOLARSHIP!

Awardees of an AHLA Foundation scholarship receive a free one-year membership to American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), placing you at the center of the industry with access to all the news, information, and events on which the nation's leading hotel companies rely. It keeps you in the know and in touch with the individuals who make the hiring decisions. You also receive an exclusive opportunity to join AHLA Foundation's alumni group, a close-knit group of scholarship awardees who act as vital connections down the road. If you are under 30 years of age you'll also be able to join AHLA's newest membership category, the Under 30 Gateway, which includes a mentor program.

LET'S GET STARTED

Our scholarships fall into two categories: **self-nominated** and **school-nominated**. For self-nominated scholarships, identify which ones you may qualify for and then indicate the ones for which you want to receive consideration. (Your school does not have to be affiliated with AHLA Foundation.) If you've been notified by a faculty member that you've been nominated by your school, make sure to apply for the appropriate "school-nominated" scholarships, as well as any other self-nominated scholarships you're interested in.

Just remember, the application deadline is March 15.

[APPLY HERE](#)



Self-Nominated Scholarships

INCOMING FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created exclusively for incoming freshmen to encourage enrollment in hospitality-related undergraduate programs and attract more students to the lodging industry. The program is funded from the PepsiCo Foundation Scholarship Fund, proceeds from the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS), and scholarship monies set aside from AHLAF's New Century Fund Campaign.



Awards:

Baccalaureate Majors - \$4,000

Associate Majors - \$2,000

Eligibility:

- An incoming freshman for the upcoming fall semester, which is defined as a student who has never been enrolled in a college or university
- An undergraduate hospitality management major at a U.S. college or university
- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the upcoming fall and spring semesters
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.0
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

After receiving many requests for graduate scholarships, AHLEF began offering a scholarship exclusively for graduate students in 2008. The program is funded by proceeds generated by the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS).

Awards: \$5,000

Eligibility:

- If your graduate degree is in anything other than a hospitality-related program, you must have either:
- An undergraduate degree in hospitality
- Four years' employment in the lodging industry after graduation

If you do not have either of the above, then you must be enrolled in a hospitality-related graduate degree:

- Enrollment can be full- or part-time in a U.S. college or university
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.0
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident

OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Opening Doors to Opportunity capital campaign, reinforced the industry's diligence and unwavering support of our future leaders.

Awards:

**Baccalaureate Majors - \$7,500 for full-time enrollment
\$3,750 for the fall semester only**

**Associate Majors - \$3,000 for full-time enrollment (at least 12 credit hours)
\$1,500 for the fall semester only**

Eligibility:

- Enrolled at least 12 credit hours for both the fall and spring semesters, or just the fall semester if graduating in December.
- An undergraduate hospitality management major at an accredited U.S. college or university.
- Minimum overall GPA of 2.5.
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident.

THE HYATT HOTELS FUND FOR MINORITY LODGING MANAGEMENT STUDENTS



In 1988, Hyatt established this fund to provide financial aid to minority students pursuing a degree in hotel management.

Awards: \$2,000

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the upcoming fall and spring semesters, or just the fall semester if graduating this December
- A baccalaureate hospitality management major in a U.S. college or university
- At least a junior for the upcoming fall semester
- The competition is open to minority students: African-American, Hispanic, Native American/Alaskan, and Asian/Pacific Islander
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident

Jana Vaughan

Collin College
AHLAF General Fund Scholarship



"I have returned to school following an absence of nearly 30 years. Returning to school has been a dream of mine, but I could never manage to make it work. I have two special needs sons and have spent 17 years helping them. As a non-traditional student, I take this second chance very seriously. This gift of education not only shows support for my learning, but it also reinforces my motivation to strive for my dream."

THE ECOLAB SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION



This program was established as a commitment to the lodging industry and to support the development of its future leaders.

Awards:

Baccalaureate Majors - \$2,000

Associate Majors - \$1,000

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for both the upcoming fall and spring semesters
- An undergraduate hospitality management major at a U.S. college or university

LaDarius Pugh

University of Central Florida
Graduate Scholarship



"I could not have been more elated to have been a recipient of the Graduate Scholarship. It's an incredible way to represent AHLAF in such a positive light. During the beginning of my program, I almost withdrew from grad school because of financial hardships. This scholarship now plays an integral role with furthering my education as a graduate student, and that is unforgettable and very much so appreciated. It means a lot to me that I am familiar with such a prestigious hotel organization who wants to see me succeed both professionally and academically."

AMERICAN EXPRESS SCHOLARSHIP



This program is designed specifically for current lodging employees and their dependents.

Awards:

Baccalaureate Majors: \$2,000 full-time enrollment, or \$1,000 part-time

Associate Majors: \$1,000 full-time enrollment, or \$500 part-time

Eligibility:

- Enrolled full-time or part-time in an undergraduate hospitality management program at a U.S. college or university

You must either:

- Be working a minimum of 20 hours per week at an AHLA member hotel with at least 12 months' hotel experience

OR

- Be a dependent of a qualified employee, and have past employment in some capacity in the hospitality industry

School-Nominated Scholarships

ARTHUR J. PACKARD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

This scholarship honors Arthur J. Packard, a third-generation hotelier, whose work for AHLA extended over 30 years -- one of the longest tenures on record.



The Packard Competition provides scholarships to the most outstanding student of lodging management and to two runners-up through an annual competition among Foundation-affiliated four-year programs. Each university nominates its best-qualified student to compete. If you're attending a four-year Foundation-affiliated school, request a nomination through your dean's office for this prestigious award.

Awards:
\$5,000 (First Place); \$3,000 (Second Place); \$2,000 (Third Place)

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours for the upcoming fall and spring semester, or just the fall semester if graduating this December
- A baccalaureate hospitality management major at an
- AHLEF affiliated school
- At least a junior for the upcoming fall semester
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.5
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident

Jessie Cheon

Virginia Polytechnic Institute &
State University
Rama Scholarship for the
American Dream



"Being an unaccompanied youth during high school, life was challenging. Upon graduating high school, I was on my own. After receiving the acceptance letter from the college that I've always wanted to go to, it was a concern of mine on how I would manage to pay for my college education. With your financial generosity, I am able to attend school without as much difficulty and focus more on my education. The AHLAF scholarship has allowed me to be one step closer to my goal. This scholarship has inspired me to help others by giving back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help young students achieve their goal just as you have helped me. I am very honored to be this year's AHLAF scholarship recipient and sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me and going through this journey with me."

THE RAMA SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM

The five Rama brothers, principals in the company, emigrated from India to pursue their American Dream. It began with the ownership of one lodging property and grew into a successful operation of 42 properties and more than 1,500 associates. The fund, established on the 25th anniversary of the brothers' first hotel purchase, encourages others to create their own American Dream.

Award: \$500 - \$3,000 depending upon enrollment and recommended amount from school

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in at least 9 credit hours for upcoming fall and spring semesters, or just the fall semester if graduating in December
- An undergraduate or graduate hospitality management major
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.5
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- Participating schools select the recipients. Preference is given to students of Asian-Indian descent and other minority groups, as well as JHM Hotel employees

Participating Schools

The following 13 hospitality management schools have been designated to participate in the program:

- Bethune-Cookman University
- California State Polytechnic University
- Cornell University
- Florida International University
- Georgia State University
- Greenville Technical College
- Howard University
- Johnson & Wales University - Charlotte
- New York University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Houston
- University of South Carolina
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

AHLAF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

The Foundation's largest program, the Academic Scholarship Program, is co-administered with 70 universities and colleges affiliated with AHLAF.

Financial support for the scholarship grant program is provided by the following scholarship funds:

- Melinda Bush Mentors
- John Clifford Memorial
- Cecil B. Day Memorial
- Handlery Hotels
- Conrad N. Hilton Memorial
- Creighton Holden Memorial
- Hospitality Asset Managers Association
- Steve Hymans Extended Stay
- Richard Kessler
- J. Willard Marriott Memorial
- Joseph McInerney Scholarship
- The National Restaurant Association
- Curtis C. Nelson

Additional monies for the program come from the Foundation's general scholarship fund; proceeds from its Annual Giving program; a previous capital giving campaign, Hospitality 2000; the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS); as well as annual special events such as the Big Apple Auction and Golf Classic.

Awards: \$500 - \$6,000 as recommended by the participating school and dependent upon enrollment.

Eligibility:

- Enrolled full-time in an undergraduate hospitality management degree-granting program at one of the schools listed on page 7
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 (2.0 if receiving Conrad Hilton Funds)
- A U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident
- Completed 1-2 years of school depending on the program

If you're attending an AHLA Foundation-affiliated school, reach out to your Dean's office. or contact [AHLA Foundation](https://www.aHLA.org) at (202) 289-3134 for more information.

Scholarship Availability

	INCOMING FRESHMAN	GRADUATE	HYATT	ECOLAB	AMERICAN EXPRESS	OPENING DOORS	ANNUAL GRANT	PACKARD	RAMA
Nominated by a Specific School	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Class Status as of Fall '24	Incoming Freshman	Graduate	Junior or Senior	Undergrad	Undergrad	Undergrad	Junior or Senior	Junior or Senior	Any
Minimum Overall GPA	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.5	2.5
Must be a Minority Student	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Enrollment Status	Full-time	Full or Part-time	Full-time	Full-time	Full or Part-time	Full-or part-time	Full-time	Full-time	Full or Part-time
Enrollment Fall & Spring Semesters	Yes	No, if Dec. graduate	No, if Dec. graduate	Yes	No, if Dec. graduate	No, if Dec. graduate	No, if Dec. graduate	No, if Dec. graduate	No, if Dec. graduate
Employed 20+ hrs at a Hotel	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Letter of Recommendation	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
U.S. Citizenship or U.S. Permanent Residency	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes