



**2026-2027**

**Jonathan Earl Coleman Book Scholarship  
Application Packet**

**Omicron Omega Chapter of  
Iota Phi Theta® Fraternity Incorporated**  
*"Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One"*

## HISTORY

Iota Phi Theta® Fraternity, Incorporated was founded on September 19, 1963, at Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland, now known as Morgan State University. Built on the purpose of developing and perpetuating Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Fidelity, and Brotherhood among Men, Iota Phi Theta was created during a defining period in American history. Born in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement, the fraternity was founded by twelve courageous men determined to lead with conviction, serve their communities, and build a lasting legacy of impact and progress.

The Twelve Honorable Founders of Iota Phi Theta are Albert Hicks, Lonnie Spruill, Jr., Charles Briscoe, Frank Coakley, John Slade, Barron Willis, Webster Lewis, Charles Brown, Louis Hudnell, Charles Gregory, Elias Dorsey, Jr., and Michael Williams. Alongside the legacy of our Founders, we also proudly honor our Eternal Sweetheart, Audrey S. Brooks, whose place in our history reflects the spirit of support, love, and encouragement that helps sustain strong communities and strong leadership. Many of the Founders were older than traditional college students, and several balanced military service, work, marriage, fatherhood, and school while building a new brotherhood. Their maturity, discipline, and vision helped shape a fraternity known for purpose-driven leadership and meaningful community impact.

Today, Iota Phi Theta continues that legacy as an international fraternity with 300+ chapters and over 75,000 initiated members, representing more than six decades of Brotherhood, service, and progress. The fraternity remains committed to uplifting communities, supporting education, and developing leaders prepared to make a difference.

The Omicron Omega Chapter is proud to continue that mission through the Jonathan Earl Coleman Scholarship. This scholarship reflects our chapter's sincere commitment to giving back and investing in the future of our community. We are excited to support graduating high school senior young men and women who show promise, character, and leadership potential. More than a financial award, this scholarship is one way we do our part to encourage the next generation of scholars, professionals, and community leaders to keep pushing forward. As Iota Phi Theta proudly says, "Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One!"

## **SELECTION AND AWARD PROCEDURE**

The Omicron Omega Chapter Scholarship Committee will review all completed applications and select scholarship recipients based on the overall strength of each application. Applications will be evaluated using a holistic review process that considers academic achievement, leadership, service, extracurricular involvement, character, essay quality, and completeness of the application.

The Jonathan Earl Coleman Scholarship is a one-time book scholarship award of \$500.00. Final award decisions will be made after all completed applications have been reviewed. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right not to issue an award if applications submitted do not meet the standards of the scholarship. If a selected recipient does not accept the award, does not enroll in a postsecondary institution, or is otherwise unable to receive the scholarship, the award may be offered to another qualified applicant.

Scholarship funds will be issued according to Omicron Omega Chapter scholarship procedures and verification of enrollment.

### **Applications will be reviewed based on the following:**

- Completeness and accuracy of the application
- Academic achievement
- Leadership and service
- Extracurricular involvement
- Quality, authenticity, and thoughtfulness of the essay
- Strength of recommendation
- Financial need, if applicable

## **SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the Jonathan Earl Coleman Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Be a young man or young woman planning to enroll in a college, university, community college, trade school, or other postsecondary program
- Have a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Demonstrate leadership potential, positive character, and community involvement
- Submit a complete application packet by the stated deadline

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

To apply for the Jonathan Earl Coleman Scholarship, applicants must submit the following:

- A completed scholarship application form
- A current high school transcript
- A 500-word, double-spaced essay
- One signed recommendation letter
- SAT and/or ACT scores, if available

Applicants should submit all materials as one complete packet whenever possible. Incomplete applications may not be reviewed.

Submit Applications by Email to: **OmicronOmegalotas@gmail.com**

Application Deadline: **No later than Saturday, May 1, 2027**

Applications received after the deadline may not be considered eligible for the scholarship.

## **RECOMMENDATION REQUIREMENT**

Applicants must submit one recommendation letter from an adult who knows them in an academic, leadership, work, service, or community setting. Recommendations may come from a:

- Teacher
- School counselor
- Coach
- Employer
- Faith leader
- Community leader

The recommendation letter should address the applicant's character, responsibility, leadership, work ethic, growth, and readiness for success after high school.

## Student Application

Please read this form carefully and answer each question completely. Your application will not be processed if all the questions are not answered in full. Mark N/A for items not applicable.

### Scholarship Applicant Information

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Information

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Educational Information

High School Name \_\_\_\_\_

High School Address \_\_\_\_\_

High School City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative Grade Point Average? \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Information (con't)**

Where do you plan to attend college? \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Address \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied for admission? \_\_\_\_\_ Been accepted? \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Major? \_\_\_\_\_ ACT or SAT Score \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities/Organizations**

Please list activities/organizations in or out of school. Indicate the office(s) held and accomplishment(s) while in office.

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**Honors & Awards**

Please list any honor and awards received in or out of school.

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**Work & Volunteer Experience**

Include both paid and volunteer work experience, and job duties performed.

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At the heart of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., there are five guiding principles: **Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Fidelity, and Brotherhood**. These principles reflect the importance of academic effort, strong character, service to others, loyalty to what is right, and building positive relationships that strengthen families, schools, and communities. Through this scholarship, the Omicron Omega Chapter seeks to recognize graduating high school seniors whose life experiences, present actions, and future goals reflect these same values.

Submit a **500-word, double-spaced essay** answering all the questions below in one essay response. Your essay must focus on your real life, your current actions, and your future direction. Avoid broad definitions or generic statements.

1. Tell us about a specific experience from your past that challenged you to grow up, step up, or see yourself differently. What happened, and what did you learn from it?
2. How do those lessons show up in your life right now? Describe specific ways you are handling responsibilities, making decisions, helping others, or preparing for what comes next.
3. As you prepare to graduate, what are you building toward? Explain how your past and present experiences connect to the future you want for yourself and the difference you hope to make for others.

Essays should include specific personal details, real examples, and thoughtful reflection. Responses that are vague, overly general, or do not clearly address past, present, and future may not score as strongly.

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**Applicant's Signature & Date**

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**Applicant's Parent/Guardian Signature & Date**

Deadline for receipt of Application:  
**SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2027**



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