2026 Virginia Library Association Scholarship Application

The Virginia Library Association (VLA) Scholarship Committee's scholarship opportunity is designed to recognize and support outstanding individuals committed to advancing the field of library science.

We are proud to award two scholarships, each valued at $3,000, to deserving recipients who embody the spirit of excellence and dedication to the library profession.

Students must be pursuing a Master's degree in Library Science at an ALA-accredited school and must be currently enrolled or have received acceptance for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Please note that this application requires two (2) references that must be uploaded with your application. One (1) of the two (2) references is strongly recommended to be a librarian or other information professional. You must also include an undergraduate transcript, as well as a letter of acceptance to an ALA accredited graduate program or graduate academic transcript. Unofficial transcripts are accepted. All files must be PDFs.

There is a written component to the application - **please plan accordingly when filling out the form as your progress will not be saved.**

You may be required to create a Google account to upload files to this form. If you are experiencing technical issues, please contact the VLA Communications Manager at vanessa@vla.org - your application will not be forwarded to the VLA Scholarship Committee for review if you do not submit two letters of reference, an undergraduate transcript, and proof of acceptance or a current graduate transcript in addition to the application.

This application period will close on March 31, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

* Indicates required question

1. Name *

_____

2. Email address (You will be contacted about the status of your application here). *

_____

3. Phone number *

_____

4. Virginia Residency *

Mark only one oval.

   ◯ I am a current Virginia resident.

   ◯ I am not a current Virginia resident but I am currently employed by a Virginia library.

   ◯ I am a current Virginia resident AND currently employed by a Virginia library.

   ◯ I am a past or future Virginia resident and do not currently work in Virginia.

   ◯ I am not a Virginia resident and do not currently work in Virginia.

Academics

Academic excellence is included in the criteria for a VLA scholarship. Fill out the information below about your previous academic experience. Please note that questions about honors/awards/activities should relate to your time seeking your undergraduate degree. You will describe other honors/awards/activities later in the application.

5. Undergraduate Institution *

_____

6. Dates attended for undergraduate institution *

_____

7. Degree earned (Example: Bachelors of Science in Biology, Bachelor of Art in History) *

_____

8. GPA *

_____

9. Extracurriculars (Please write n/a if needed) *

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

10. Honors and awards (Please write n/a if needed) *

_____
_____
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11. Do you have any additional degrees? If so, please include the institution, degree earned, and GPA below:

_____
_____
_____
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_____

12. Upload your transcript(s) here. Your undergraduate transcript is required, but you may also include additional transcripts from other post graduate degrees. *

Files submitted:

Library Science Program

Scholarship recipients must provide documentation showing acceptance to an ALA accredited Masters in Library Science graduate program OR that shows current enrollment in a library science program. Please answer the questions below in addition to submitting these documents.

13. Name of the ALA-accredited library school where you are currently a student or where you have been accepted for enrollment: *

_____

14. Estimated graduation date: *

_____

15. Date of entry to program *

_____
Example: January 7, 2019

16. Expected date of completion *

_____
Example: January 7, 2019

17. Degree sought (MLS, MLIS, MSLS, etc.) *

_____

18.   Honors or awards (Please write n/a if needed) *

_____

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19.   Extracurriculars (Please write n/a if needed)

_____

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20.   Current GPA (Please write n/a if you have not yet begun your program) *

_____

21.   Upload a letter of acceptance OR a current unofficial transcript that shows enrollment.

Files submitted:

Employment History

Describe any employment history that you would like to share with the Scholarship Committee.

Please format your responses as:
Name of Employer
Job Title
Start - End Dates
<250 word description of role and responsibilities

22. Current Employer, Job Title, Start - End Dates, and Description of Role (Please *
    write n/a if needed)

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23. Past Employers, Job Titles, Start - End Dates, and Description of Roles (Please *
    write n/a if needed)

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24. Awards (Please write n/a if needed) *

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More Information

These questions are not required, but will help the Scholarship Committee in determining
their winners.

25. Are you a member of any professional organizations or associations? List them below - please, no acronyms.

_____

_____

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_____

26. Describe your involvement in any professional organizations, using the following format:

Organization Name
Role
Start - End Dates
<250 word description of role and responsibilities

For example, this may look like:
Association for Library Services to Children
Quicklists Committee Member
July 2022 - July 2024
<250 word description of role and responsibilities

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27. Community Service

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Essay Response

Choose three (3) of the following five (5) prompts (300 words maximum, for each of the three chosen prompts).

1. Describe your journey to pursue a master's degree in library science.
2. What made you choose librarianship as your profession? In your response, include examples of patron interactions, projects, research experiences, or initiatives that you are especially proud to have been a part of
3. What are your goals after earning your degree, and how do you plan to contribute to the field?
4. Describe how your experiences and/or identities (i.e. race, ability, gender, geography, sex, etc.) have shaped the lens through which you view librarianship.
5. What barriers are you currently facing in obtaining your MLIS?

28. Upload a PDF, DOC, or DOCX of your essay here.

Files submitted:

Letters of Recommendation

Please upload two PDF letters of recommendation below.

29. Letter of Recommendation - 1

Files submitted:

30. Letter of Recommendation - 2

Files submitted:

Are there any other details that the committee should consider to better understand you and your goals?

Please respond to the prompt in <500 words. This question is optional but will help the committee in determining their winners.

31.

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