

2022-2023

WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

WTS fosters the development of women in the transportation field by encouraging bright new professionals to undertake careers in the area of transportation. One way it does this is by awarding the WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship to women pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.

The scholarship honors Sharon D. Banks, chief executive officer of AC Transit in Alameda-Contra Costa County, California. As its CEO throughout most of the 1990's, Banks led the agency in a pioneering effort to introduce cultural and organizational changes aimed at motivating the public transit workforce. She was a member of the WTS Advisory Board and received the WTS San Francisco Chapter Woman of the Year and Employer of the Year awards.

The Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship through the Greater Chicago Chapter is **\$3,000**. The winner of the Greater Chicago Chapter scholarship will be nominated for the WTS International Foundation scholarship of \$5,000. The minimum criteria for selection are:

- a. GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- b. Currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in a transportation-related field, including but not limited to civil engineering, transportation engineering, aviation, planning, finance, or logistics.
- c. Currently enrolled in a school in Illinois, currently enrolled in a school outside of Illinois and have a permanent Illinois address, or currently enrolled in a school outside of Illinois and have an internship in Illinois.
- d. Plans to pursue a career in a transportation-related field.
- e. One letter of recommendation
- f. Official transcript
- g. Proof of enrollment
- h. Written essay

Applications must be submitted through local WTS chapters **electronically**. Scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific transportation goals, academic record, and transportation-related activities or job skills. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. The Chicago Chapter awards will be presented at the annual scholarship event to be held in Chicago, IL in the Summer of 2023. National awards will be presented in May 2023 at the annual WTS International Conference in Atlanta. If selected for a scholarship, attendance at the awards event is strongly recommended. Please contact your local WTS chapter at the address listed below for specifics.

Questions may be sent via e-mail to scholarship@wtsgreaterchicago.org.

Word versions of the application form may be downloaded from <https://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/greater-chicago/student-info/scholarships>

***Completed applications must be received by your local chapter no later than:
Monday, January 9, 2023.***

Submittal Instructions & Checklists

The requested documents are to be e-mailed following the instructions below.

E-mail: scholarship@wtsgreaterchicago.org:

Subject Line: "Last Name – Scholarship Name" (i.e. "Smith-Banks Scholarship")

Documents to Include:

- 1. Signed Application Form (pdf)
- 2. Official Transcript
 - a. Certified pdf OR
 - b. Direct electronic transfer from school emailed directly to scholarship@wtsgreaterchicago.org
- 3. Recommendation Letter(s)
 - a. Recommender(s) must email their letter directly to scholarship@wtsgreaterchicago.org with the subject line: *Recommendation Letter-"Last Name – Scholarship Name"* (i.e. "Recommendation Letter-Smith-Banks Scholarship")
 - b. Letter must be on official letterhead
- 4. Personal Statement (pdf)
- 5. Proof of Enrollment (pdf)
- 6. Resume (optional, pdf)

E-mail must be received by 11:59pm CT, January 9, 2023.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Who do I contact with questions?

A: Questions can be e-mailed to scholarship@wtsgreaterchicago.org

Q: Can I e-mail my application?

A: See the submittal instructions on page two of the application packet.

Q: Can I apply for more than one scholarship?

A: Yes. You can apply for all scholarships for which you meet the minimum criteria for selection that are included on page one of the application packet.

Q: Can I apply if I am a part-time student?

A: Yes.

Q: What should I include for my transcript if this is my first semester?

A: Include a transcript from your last program (i.e. high school, another college/university, etc.).

Q: Can I use my student ID as proof of enrollment?

A: No. Examples of proof of enrollment include an official listing of courses which you are currently enrolled in from the registrar's office or a tuition receipt for the current semester. Images from a course catalog do not count.

Q: Are international students eligible to apply?

A: Yes. International students are eligible and encouraged to apply. Students must be attending a school in Illinois or Iowa to be eligible for an undergraduate scholarship from the Greater Chicago Chapter.

Q: Are "dreamers" eligible to apply?

A: Yes. "Dreamers" (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) are eligible to apply.

Q: When will I be notified if I have been selected for the scholarship award?

A: Students are typically notified if they have been selected for the Greater Chicago Chapter Award by February. Winners of the local chapter award are nominated for the WTS International Foundation award. Students are typically notified if they have been selected for the Foundation award by March.

Q: When will scholarship funds be received from the WTS Greater Chicago Chapter?

A: Scholarships will be issued at the annual scholarship awards event in the summer.

Q: Can I apply for a scholarship if I have applied in previous years?

A: Yes.

Q: Can I apply for a scholarship if I am a past recipient?

A: Yes. Past recipients can apply for other chapter scholarships and are not eligible for the specific scholarship award(s) that they have previously won.

Q: If I am enrolled in a joint undergraduate/graduate program, do I apply for the undergraduate- or graduate-level scholarships?

A: If your proof of enrollment or transcript indicates that you are an undergraduate student, you may only apply for the undergraduate scholarships, no matter how many years of the program you have completed. If your proof of enrollment or transcript indicates that you are graduate student, you may only apply for the graduate scholarships.



WTS Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Application

I. Personal Information

Name _____
Last First Middle

Student E-mail address _____

Permanent E-mail address _____

Primary Phone (____) _____

Current Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

Permanent Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

Social Media (optional):

II. Educational Background

Current College/University _____

City, State _____

Expected Date of Graduation _____ Degree to be Received _____

Area of Concentration _____

Grade Point Average _____

(Minimum GPA of 3.0 required. Attach official copy of transcript to application.)

Previous Colleges/Universities Attended, Date Degree Earned and GPA:

Professional or School Affiliations (List any school, professional or community activities you have participated in. Include offices held and awards received. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as typed word documents.)

III. Employment History

Work Experience (List full-time, part-time, co-op and summer employment. Briefly describe duties and responsibilities. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as typed word documents.)

IV. Recommendation: One (1) letter of recommendation by a professor, advisor, counselor, or job supervisor must accompany your application.

V. Personal Statement: A statement about your career goals after graduation and why you think that you should receive the scholarship award. Applicants must address the issue of leadership, its importance in a transportation career, and the applicant's leadership achievements. Statement should not exceed 500 words or two pages.

VI. Proof of Enrollment: Attach a copy of your tuition receipt or current course registration.

VII. Resume (optional): If you would like your resume forwarded to companies in the Chicago area for potential internship or full-time opportunities, please include a copy with your application. Please note on your resume your anticipated graduation date and if you are looking for an internship or full-time position.

VIII. Demographic Information: WTS is committed to recognizing the achievements of students pursuing transportation related degrees. To track our progress in reaching diverse applicants, we ask that you complete this confidential demographic information. **This is not required for scholarship awards and will not be used in the selection process.**

1. Race/Ethnicity (select all that apply)

- Asian
- Black
- East Indian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Indigenous
- Middle Eastern
- Multiracial
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Other (Please write in)
- Choose Not to Disclose

2. Age

- 15-18
- 19-23
- 24-30
- 31-50
- 50 +

3. Anticipated or Current Mode of Transportation Career Focus (select all that apply)

- Aviation
- Freight
- Highway/Auto
- Maritime/Port
- Multi-Modal
- Non-Motorized
- Passenger
- Transit
- Other (Please write in)

4. How did you hear about this scholarship?

- Friend
- School/Teacher
- Social Media:
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - LinkedIn
 - Snapchat
 - TikTok
 - Twitter
 - YouTube
 - Other (Please write in)_____
- WTS Chapter
- WTS International Website
- Other (Please write in)_____

Applicant
Signature _____ Date _____