

**Westminster Church of Detroit**  
**Berko Scholarship**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. I am not a member of WCOD but I attend occasionally, am I eligible for the scholarship?**

Yes, you may apply for the scholarship. The scholarship is available to members, “attenders,” and individuals that live within the neighborhood around WCOD. Please note, however that one of the categories in which applicants will be rated is their connectivity to the church. The stronger the connectivity, the higher the score in that category.

**2. I have never attended church at WCOD but I went to Camp Westminster, am I eligible for the scholarship?**

Unfortunately, applicants must be a member, “attender,” or an individual who lives within the neighborhood around WCOD. The scholarship is intended to help support the education of those individuals who are connected to the actual church or who live in close proximity.

**3. I obtained information about this scholarship from my high school which is in the WCOD neighborhood but I do not live in the neighborhood nor do I attend WCOD. Am I eligible for the scholarship?**

Unfortunately, applicants must be a member, “attender,” or an individual who lives within the neighborhood around WCOD. The scholarship is intended to help support the education of those individuals who are connected to the actual church or who live in close proximity.

**4. Can I use this scholarship to attend an out-of-state college?**

Yes, if awarded, the scholarship may be used at any accredited postsecondary institution. The location of the college, university, or training facility does not matter.

**5. I received this scholarship last year, can I apply again this year?**

Yes, previous awardees may apply for a subsequent scholarship. The scoring process is a bit different for reapplicants. In particular, the applicant’s grades during the previous year are reviewed and considered. Reapplicants must have maintained a 2.00 grade point average or greater during the previous year of school/training to be considered for a subsequent scholarship.

**6. Does this scholarship help with graduate school expenses?**

No, this scholarship may not be used for graduate school. The intent of the scholarship is to support education and training so that an individual may begin a productive career. We believe that if an individual has obtained an undergraduate degree, they are likely to have access to resources and/or employment that can help support continued education.

- 7. I am not going to a college or university but I am enrolled in a training program to become a certified nurse assistant (CNA). Can I use this scholarship for my training costs?**

The intent of the scholarship is to support education and training so that an individual may begin a productive career. As such, the scholarship supports all types of postsecondary education, including trades school and vocational training programs in addition to the traditional college and university programs.

- 8. Can I use this scholarship to pay for my living expenses while I'm in college?**

This scholarship is not intended to be used specifically for living expenses. The scholarship check will be written to both the school and the student. It will be applied to the education-related expenses including: tuition, room/board, books, supplies, and other education-related fees.

- 9. I have been accepted to more than one college/university, but I have not yet decided which one I will attend. Do I have to submit copies of all my acceptance letters, or must I decide before submitting my application?**

If you are still undecided on what school you plan to attend, it is advisable to submit the acceptance letters for the schools you are considering. Part of the scoring process includes reviewing the school/program to ensure its accreditation. Also, keep in mind that if you are awarded a scholarship, we will need to know which school you plan to attend prior to preparing the scholarship check.

## WCOD Berkho Scholarship Application

Westminster Church of Detroit (WCOD) is pleased to offer, with generous funding from the Berkho family, at least four (4) scholarships each in the amount of \$2,500 to support expenses related to the attainment of postsecondary education. The number of scholarships awarded will be determined annually and is based on the availability of funding.

- Criteria:
- Applicant must be a member or attender of WCOD OR living within the WCOD neighborhood community. (2 awardees may be selected from members/attenders and 2 awardees may be selected from the WCOD neighborhood community.)
  - Applicant must be a graduating high school senior or must have received a high school diploma/equivalent within the last five (5) years. An official school transcript must be submitted with this application.
  - Applicant must pursue a post secondary education at an accredited institution. A copy or scanned college acceptance letter must be submitted with this application.
  - Applicant must submit two (2) letters of recommendation. One letter must be written by a school representative (i.e. school counselor, etc.). The second letter can be provided by any of the following:
    - Teacher, guidance counselor, or school administrator
    - Clergy or church member
    - Employer, mentor, or coach
  - Letters written by relatives/family members are not acceptable.

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### PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

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Name:	_____	Phone:	_____
Address:	_____	Mobile:	_____
	_____	Email:	_____
City:	_____	Zip:	_____
High School:	_____	H.S. Graduation Date:	_____
Are you a member/attender of WCOD?	Yes	No	# of Years: _____
Are you affiliated with a member of WCOD?	Yes	No	Who? _____
Name of College/University/Postsecondary School:	_____		
Location:	_____		
Anticipated Field of Study:	_____		

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### PART II - ESSAY

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Please respond to the following two (2) questions. Your response should not be more than one (1) page for each question. Essays should be completed using 12 point font, single spacing, and 8 1/2" x 11" page size.

**Essay #1. Describe the character-building activities in which you have been engaged. (Example: volunteering, sports, employment, etc.)**

**Essay #2. Respond to only one (1) of the following topics:**

- Describe what led you to your field of study and/or career pathway;
- Describe how you rely on your faith to accomplish your goals; or
- How have you contributed or plan to contribute to your community in a meaningful way?

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### PART III - APPLICATION SUBMISSION

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This application must be submitted by April 1, 2023.

Please submit your completed application along with the requested documentation by email or U.S. Mail to:

Email: [wcodscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:wcodscholarship@gmail.com)

Address: Westminster Church of Detroit  
c/o Berkho Scholarship Committee  
17567 Hubbell Ave  
Detroit, MI 48235

Applications that are emailed must be received by 11:59pm on April 1, 2023. Applications submitted via USPS must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2023. We strongly encourage electronic submission because of inconsistencies with USPS.

If you submit via USPS and have not received a confirmation of receipt from the committee, please email [wcodscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:wcodscholarship@gmail.com) prior to the April 1st deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (313) 341-2697.

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### PART IV - CHECKLIST

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- Applicant Information (Part I)
- Essay Question 1
- Essay Question 2 (renewal applicants do not submit)
- Official school transcript
- Copy or scanned acceptance letter to an accredited college or postsecondary training program (renewal applicants do not submit)
- Two letters of recommendation (one letter must be written by a school representative; letters from relatives/family members are not acceptable; renewal applicants do not submit)

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### PART V - AWARD INFORMATION

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**Number of Awards:** WCOD will grant at least four (4) awards annually, each in the amount of \$2,500 to support expenses related to the attainment of postsecondary education. The number of scholarships awarded will be determined annually and is based on the availability of funding.

**Previous Awardees:** Previous awardees are eligible to apply again for a scholarship. Renewal criteria:

- Renewal applicants must have maintained a 2.00 GPA or greater during the previous year. Official transcripts must be submitted.
- Renewal applicants do not need to submit an acceptance letter.
- Renewal applicants must respond only to essay question #1 (they do not have to respond to essay question #2).
- Renewal applicants do not need to submit letters of recommendation.

**Applicant Selection:** A committee will review scholarship applications using a point system and will select the applicants who have scored the highest points. The point system is listed below.

Criteria	Points	
	Initial Applicant	Renewal
<i>Connectivity to Westminster</i>	10	20
<i>Academics</i>	25	35
<i>Essay #1 - Character-Building &amp; Extra-Curricular Activities</i>	20	30
<i>Essay #2</i>	20	N/A
<i>Letters of Recommendation</i>	15	N/A
<i>Discretionary (i.e. innovation, creativity, exemplary accomplishments, etc.)</i>	10	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Award Notification:** Scholarship award notification will be made on or before April 30, 2023. Presentations to awardees will occur on May 7, 2023 during 11:00 a.m. service at WCOD.