



P.O. Box 4310 • Arlington, VA 22204-9998 • [novac@dstnovac.org](mailto:novac@dstnovac.org)

## **2018 NoVAC SCHOLARSHIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q: How do I apply for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

#### **STEP 1**

Download the 2018 NoVAC Scholarship Application from [www.dstnovac.org](http://www.dstnovac.org). The NoVAC Scholarship Application has 7 parts:

- Scholarship Application
- FAFSA Student Aid Report
- Essay(s) – General and/or Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM)
- Résumé
- Official School Transcript(s)
- Official Test Score(s)
- Two Letters of Recommendation

#### **STEP 2**

Complete the 2018 NoVAC Scholarship Application on a computer or word processor. Handwritten and/or incomplete applications **WILL NOT** be considered.

#### **STEP 3**

Email ([scholarship@dstnovac.org](mailto:scholarship@dstnovac.org)) and/or mail via the U.S. Postal Service all of the following in one envelope:

- 2018 NoVAC Scholarship Application: completed and signed by the applicant and his/her parent/guardian. NoVAC will not consider any applications that are not signed by the applicant and his/her parent or guardian.
- FAFSA Student Aid Report for the applicant's calculated EFC (estimated family contribution).
- Essays addressing the prompts identified in the NoVAC Scholarship Application
  - The essay prompt addressing NoVAC's fundraising theme is **REQUIRED** for **ALL** applicants.
  - The essay addressing the STEM prompt is **ONLY** required for applicants requesting consideration for the STEM Scholarship.
- Résumé identifying any work experience, school and extracurricular activities/awards/honors.
- Two letters of recommendation (signed and dated) on official letterhead from a teacher, guidance counselor, principal or other school administrator **AND** community leader (non-school related activity).
- Official high school transcript (displaying the official school seal) with a cumulative grade point average **OR** signed by an appropriate school administrator (e.g., School Registrar or Guidance Counselor) in a sealed envelope.
- Official documentation of SAT/ACT scores. Applicants must score at least 1200 (for test administrations **BEFORE** March 2016) or at least 1100 (for test administrations **AFTER** March 2016) on the SAT or 18 on the ACT from a single testing date. This may be a copy of the official score report sent by the College Board and/or ACT, Inc. or an official high school transcript with test scores.

**Q: When is the application deadline for the 2018 NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: All application materials must be received by NoVAC via email to scholarship@dstnovac.org or postmarked no later than 11:59:59 PM ET, March 10, 2018. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

**Q: Is the NoVAC Scholarship available to students who are already in college?**

A: No. All NoVAC Scholarship recipients must be graduating high school seniors during the 2017-2018 academic school year.

**Q: I attend a high school outside of NoVAC's service area. May I apply for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: Yes. As long as an applicant's primary residence is within NoVAC's service area: the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, City of Falls Church, City of Fairfax, or the portion of Fairfax County that has an Alexandria mailing address, he/she is eligible for a NoVAC Scholarship.

**Q: I will be attending college or university abroad - am I still eligible for the 2018 NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: No. NoVAC Scholarships are only for students attending a college or university accredited by one of the regional commissions within the 6 geographic areas that cover the United States.

**Q: I am attending or will be attending a two-year college, not a four-year college - am I still eligible for this scholarship?**

A: Yes. If you are pursuing an AA or AS degree in the fall 2018 semester with intent to transfer to a four-year college or university for a bachelor's degree, you are eligible for a NoVAC Scholarship.

**Q: Is the scholarship available to students attending a technical or vocational school?**

A: No. All NoVAC Scholarship recipients must be graduating high school seniors during the 2017-2018 academic school year.

**Q: Is the NoVAC Scholarship only limited to female high school seniors graduating in 2018?**

A: No. The NoVAC Scholarship is not gender specific. Eligible male and female high school graduating seniors are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Q: Do I have to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to apply for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: No. Any student fulfilling all of the eligibility requirements for a NoVAC Scholarship may apply. An applicant's citizenship status will not preclude him/her from receiving a NoVAC Scholarship.

**Q: Do I have to be Black or African-American to apply for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: No. Any student fulfilling all of the eligibility requirements for a NoVAC Scholarship may apply. An applicant's race and ethnicity are not criteria for a NoVAC Scholarship.

**Q: Is there a minimum GPA to apply for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: Yes. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale, or a 3.5 or greater on a 5.0 scale, as verified by an official high school transcript or by an accompanying certification from an appropriate school official (e.g., School Registrar or Guidance Counselor).

**Q: I am sending my application materials by U.S. mail. What is NoVAC's address?**

A: Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 4310  
Arlington, VA 22204-9998

**Q: I am sending my application materials via email. What is the Scholarship Committee's email address?**

A: scholarship@dstnovac.org

**Q: Are there minimum ACT and SAT scores?**

A: Yes. Applicants must score at least 1200 (for test administrations **BEFORE** March 2016) or a minimum 1100 on the SAT (for test administrations **AFTER** March 2016) or 18 on the ACT. A copy of official documentation of SAT/ACT scores must be submitted with the application. This may be a copy of the official score report sent by the College Board and/or ACT, Inc. or an official high school transcript with test scores. For test administrations **BEFORE** March 2016, the SAT score must be comprised of total points from the critical reading, writing, and mathematics sections of the test from a single testing date. For test administrations **AFTER** March 2016, the SAT score must be comprised of total points from the reading and writing and mathematics sections of the test from a single testing date. No updated test scores, academic scores, or rankings will be accepted by NoVAC after the application due date.

**Q: Is an interview required for award of a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: No. NoVAC does not conduct interviews. Interviews are not a required part of the scholarship application process.

**Q: I do not have a family member that is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or the Northern Virginia Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. May I apply for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: Yes. Any student fulfilling all of the eligibility requirements for a NoVAC Scholarship may apply. A family member's affiliation with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or the Northern Virginia Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is not a requirement for submission of an application for a NoVAC Scholarship.

**Q: Does my participation (or lack thereof) in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s educational development initiatives (Dr. Betty Shabazz's Delta Academy, Delta GEMS, or EMBODI) affect my eligibility for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: No. Any student fulfilling all of the eligibility requirements for a NoVAC Scholarship may apply. An applicant's participation status (or lack thereof) with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s educational development initiatives is not a requirement for submission of an application for a NoVAC Scholarship.

**Q: Are there any financial criteria for this scholarship?**

A: Yes. Demonstrated financial need is a criteria for a NoVAC Scholarship. A copy of an applicant's FAFSA Student Aid Report which includes the student's calculated EFC (estimated family contribution) is required for evaluation. Applicants **MUST** submit a copy of the FAFSA Student Aid Report even if the family is not requesting federal assistance for financial aid. Applicants that fail to submit a FAFSA Student Aid Report with their application will **NOT** be evaluated by NoVAC.

**Q: What happens to my NoVAC Scholarship Application materials after award selection?**

A: All applications and supporting documentation are considered confidential. No information will be returned and becomes the property of NoVAC. After award announcement in April 2018, NoVAC will destroy all personal identifying information of non-selected applicants.

**Q: What are my chances for receiving a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: Each year, NoVAC receives numerous scholarship applications. Many applicants are very deserving of a NoVAC Scholarship, but NoVAC has a finite amount to award annually. Each application is assessed on academic achievement, leadership and citizenship, school activities/honors, community involvement and activities, and demonstrated financial need. NoVAC is not only looking for students who have demonstrated high achievement, but students who demonstrate high potential.

**Q: What is NoVAC evaluating in the scholarship essays?**

A: NoVAC assesses each applicant's essay(s) for applicability to the essay prompt, appropriate grammar, spelling, syntax, punctuation, and essay organization. Each applicant must write their essay(s) in English. All sources must be appropriately cited using American Psychological Association (APA) or Modern Language Association (MLA) format. Applicants must attest that the essay(s) is/are a reflection of their own work and has/have not been edited by anyone other than the applicant and that no one else has provided the applicant with suggestions to improve the essay(s).

**Q: Is an applicant required to complete both essays for consideration for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: NoVAC requires ALL applicants submit a response to the essay prompt addressing the Chapter's fundraising theme: Celebrating Trailblazers in Community Service. ONLY applicants requesting consideration for the Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship MUST answer the STEM-related essay prompt (he/she must anticipate matriculating in an undergraduate program leading to a degree in STEM at a college or university in the United States).

**Q: How must an applicant format his/her essays?**

A: All essays must be typed. NoVAC will NOT accept handwritten essays. The essays must be double spaced, written in 11 or 12 pitch using Times New Roman, Arial, or Garamond font, and between 500-800 words.

NoVAC recommends including your full name as a header in the essay(s). Do not include your address, phone number, or other personal identifying information on the essay(s).

**Q: If I am awarded other scholarships or financial aid, does it affect my eligibility for a NoVAC Scholarship?**

A: No. Any student fulfilling all of the eligibility requirements for a NoVAC Scholarship may apply. An applicant's receipt of other scholarships or financial will not preclude him/her from receiving a NoVAC Scholarship.

**Q: Does NoVAC have a preference for applicants to email or send their application materials via U.S. mail?**

A: No. Applicants may forward their application materials via email or the U.S. Postal Service. Note that official transcripts must be forwarded to NoVAC in a sealed envelope. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all application materials are emailed and/or postmarked no later than 11:59:59 PM ET, March 10, 2018.

**Q: When will I find out whether or not I am a NoVAC scholarship recipient?**

A: NoVAC will notify all scholarship applicants of their award status via email **ON OR AFTER** April 15, 2018.

Please do not contact NoVAC about the status of your application. NoVAC will email each applicant directly upon receipt of their application. If you have any questions, please review the NoVAC Scholarship Application instructions, the NoVAC Scholarship Application Frequently Asked Questions, or email the NoVAC Scholarship Chair at scholarship@dstnovac.org.

**Q: Can NoVAC offer any suggestions to make my application more competitive?**

A: NoVAC strongly encourages all applicants to read and follow all guidelines. Applications will be disqualified if a student fails to follow directions or ignore instructions.

Proofread your application, including the essay(s) and résumé. Responses that are unclear or contain mistakes distract scholarship reviewers from focusing on the content of the application.

Have another person(s) review your application before submission to NoVAC. Someone else can often identify errors or sections that are incomplete. Remember that applicants must attest that the essay(s) is/are a reflection of their own work and has/have not been edited by anyone other than the applicant and that no one else has provided the applicant with suggestions to improve the essay(s).

Ensure you **AND** your parent/guardian sign the Financial and Applicant Certifications in the NoVAC Scholarship Application. Unsigned applications **WILL NOT** be considered.

Submit a copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report which includes the student's calculated EFC (estimated family contribution). Applicants **MUST** submit a copy of the FAFSA Student Aid Report even if the family is not requesting federal assistance for financial aid.

Send all application materials to NoVAC via email to scholarship@dstnovac.org or postmarked via U.S. Postal Service no later than 11:59:59 PM ET, March 10, 2018.

**Q: How are NoVAC Scholarships funded?**

A: The Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter (NoVAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in the northern Virginia community. Established in 1992, the Northern Virginia Delta Education and Community Services Foundation (NVDECS) is the fiscal sponsor for NoVAC and is responsible for disbursing scholarship awards to academic institutions on behalf of NoVAC. NoVAC, in affiliation with NVDECS, has awarded more than \$540,000 in scholarships to young men and women proven to be among the best and brightest students in northern Virginia. Our scholarships and public contributions are investments in the next generation and in the future our nation. NoVAC Scholarships are funded by members of NoVAC, generous donations from friends, corporate donors, community partnerships, and signature fundraising initiatives.