

Eligibility & Selection Requirements

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

JMBD HBCU Legacy Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the JMBD HBCU Legacy Scholarship must:

- Be a graduating high school senior during the current academic year
- Reside anywhere in Washington, DC, Maryland, or Virginia
- Plan to enroll full-time at an accredited Historically Black College or University (HBCU) during the upcoming fall semester
- Demonstrate resilience, leadership potential, personal growth, and community impact through their application materials
- Have experienced the loss or absence of a father due to gun violence, community violence, or related life circumstances connected to the mission and purpose of the scholarship

Eligible Regions

Students living anywhere in the following are eligible — every county, ward, and independent city:

Washington, DC

All Wards

Maryland

All of Maryland, including Baltimore, the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, and Western Maryland.

Virginia

All of Virginia, including Northern Virginia, Richmond, and the Hampton Roads region.

Applicants compete only against other students from their own state — one award in DC, one in Maryland, one in Virginia.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- A completed scholarship application

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- Proof of acceptance or enrollment at an accredited HBCU for the upcoming fall semester
- One recommendation letter from a teacher, counselor, mentor, coach, administrator, employer, or community leader
- Written responses to the scholarship essay questions
- Optional supporting materials highlighting leadership, community involvement, achievements, or personal growth experiences

The JMBD Foundation does not require a minimum GPA for eligibility. The scholarship is rooted in the belief that potential, resilience, growth, leadership, and perseverance cannot always be measured through grades alone. The organization seeks to support students who demonstrate determination, personal growth, character, leadership potential, and a commitment to building a meaningful future despite adversity.

Verification of Circumstances

The JMBD Foundation understands the personal and emotional nature of discussing family loss, violence, and adversity. To maintain the integrity of the scholarship process while approaching applicants with compassion and respect, applicants may be asked to provide supporting context connected to their personal story.

Verification may be provided through:

- Recommendation letters
- School counselor confirmation
- Mentor, coach, or administrator support
- Community leader references
- Other reasonable forms of personal verification

The organization does not require applicants to submit sensitive documents such as death certificates, and aims to approach every application with dignity, empathy, and understanding.

Selection Philosophy

The scholarship is designed to recognize students whose experiences, perseverance, leadership potential, personal growth, and future aspirations align with the mission and values of The JMBD Foundation. The selection process will consider:

- Personal resilience

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- Leadership potential
- Character
- Community involvement
- Authenticity
- Future goals
- Commitment to growth
- Educational aspirations
- Alignment with the scholarship mission

The organization believes students should not be defined solely by academic statistics or personal hardships, but instead by their potential, growth, determination, and willingness to continue moving forward despite adversity.