

Phi Kappa Phi Susan E. Kennedy Scholarship Description and Application Process

Description: The Susan E. Kennedy Scholarship is named in honor of Susan E. Kennedy, former chair of the History Department and former Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences. The VCU chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society supports an award (\$3,000) to recognize an outstanding graduate student whose activities align with Dr. Kennedy's efforts and contributions.

Eligibility criteria for applicants

- advanced the presence of women in higher education
- completed at least one semester of graduate work at VCU
- a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.5

Key selection criteria of awardees

- academic achievement of applicant
- evidence and quality of how the applicant has advanced the presence of women in higher education

Application process:

1. In each application cycle, each M.S. program can nominate one student and each Ph.D. program can nominate one student.
2. Program directors can nominate students that meet all eligibility criteria (see above) by completing this [Google form](#) that will collect identifying information and a single PDF for each nominee with the following:
 - a. Identifying information for nominee
 1. last name
 2. first name
 3. V number
 4. e-mail address
 5. degree level
 6. degree program
 7. award sought (Phi Kappa Phi Susan E. Kennedy Scholarship in this case)
 - b. Single PDF for nominee
 1. One-page application (see subsequent page)
 2. One-page applicant's essay describing how the applicant has advanced the presence of women in higher education
 3. One-page applicant's resume
 4. Unofficial graduate transcript (Note: official transcripts are not necessary for the initial application process, but will be solicited by the Phi Kappa Phi selection committee as needed.)
 5. Two letters of recommendation. Letters can be from anyone who knows the applicant well enough to address the applicant's role in advancing the presence of women in higher education.
3. Nominations should be submitted by **March 9th, 2026**.
4. The SOM's Graduate Education Executive Committee will review nominations considering the award's eligibility and selection criteria.
5. Based on the Committee's review, the SADGE will select a single nominee and forward to the Graduate School by their deadline.
6. Phi Kappa Phi selects and awards \$3,000 to a single recipient.
7. SOM and program nominees may be eligible for SOM discretionary awards later in the academic year (typically \$250 and \$100, for Ph.D. and M.S. nominees, respectively).
8. Students can be nominated multiple times, but can receive the award a maximum of one time.