

College/University Juniors & Seniors Studying Fields in Solid Waste Management



Dear College or University Junior or Senior:

Hello and thank you for your interest in SWANA's Old Dominion Chapter's Scholarship program.

SWANA is a professional association of more than 10,500 members who work in solid waste management. Our membership is diverse, and we encourage you to consider how your selected area of study might lead you into our professional ranks. Will you be an engineer, scientist, agency or business manager, sales professional, safety specialist, expert in communications, marketing, or policy? Do you want to work as a front-line collector, equipment operator, or maintenance specialist? They all help fulfill the critical function of managing solid waste as a resource and SWANA has a place for you.

To be eligible to apply for SWANA's Old Dominion Chapter's Scholarship, each worth \$2,000 USD, you must be:

- Enrolled full-time in college or university for the period of time the scholarship will be used
- Entering your junior or senior year of undergraduate studies
- Pursuing a degree in environmental science, environmental studies, engineering, or a major applicable to the field of solid waste or resource management.
- Sponsored by a SWANA Old Dominion member in good standing on May 1 of the application year. This can be you as a student member or a qualifying SWANA Old Dominion member (see the Eligibility criteria in the application).

Applications are due no later than May 1, 2026. SWANA's awards will be announced during summer 2025.

SWANA intends to give one award of \$2,000 to a rising college/university junior or senior. Depending on the number and quality of applications, SWANA reserves the right to give more or fewer awards in this category and to adjust the number of awards in its other scholarship categories.

CRITERIA:

The Scholarship Committee evaluates the Scholarship applications as follows:

A. Academics = 30%

SWANA's Scholarship Committee considers past academic performance an important selection criterion. Your application must provide enough information to allow the Scholarship Committee to evaluate your academic performance.

- **REQUIRED:** Provide a transcript of your college/university transcripts up to the conclusion of the most recent period (quarter, trimester, semester).

An official, unofficial, or PDF copy of your transcript is required to be attached to the application sent to the Scholarship Committee. The transcript must provide marks for all courses and a measure of your academic performance when measured on the school's standardized scoring system. Identify the scale used (e.g., 4.0 on a 4.0 scale). An example of one possible measure satisfying this request for US based students is grade point average (GPA). SWANA acknowledges that not all schools use this measure and will accept other measures **documented by the transcript**.

- **OPTIONAL:** Attach documentation of any other college/university-level **academic performance, awards, or recognition** and/or letters of recommendation related to academic performance you believe the Scholarship Committee should consider.

B. Relationship of Studies to Solid Waste Management = 50%

The Committee will consider your current and completed courses, advisor/professor input, and your completed essay in its evaluations.

- **REQUIRED:** Complete the form that asks for additional information about coursework related to solid waste management and/or a potential career in the industry.
- **REQUIRED:** Please have your faculty advisory or a key professor in your studies related to solid waste management provide a one-page letter that discusses your academic performance.
- **REQUIRED:** Write a one-page, original essay about the topic identified in Question 4. SWANA considers each essay for its potential as a blog post on social media, regardless of selection for a Scholarship.

C. Other Activities = 20%

Other Activities are activities and programs that can be connected with your studies (research, internships, assistantships), associated with school (participation student organizations), or entirely unrelated (volunteer activities, military service, employment).

- **REQUIRED:** Complete the forms that ask for information about your other activities.
- **OPTIONAL:** Attach a current copy of your resume.

Describe what you did and how often you participated. Attach documentation and/or letters of recommendation to help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score this part of your application.

D. Financial Need—not weighted

- **OPTIONAL:** Although it is not a weighted factor, the Scholarship Committee can take financial need into consideration. Some chapters may also consider financial need in their review of applications. Please *do not attach forms that contain confidential personal information*.

E. Disqualification

Applying is not a guarantee of funding. The Scholarship Committee may disqualify an application for any of the following reasons.

- Applicant fails to meet the May 1 deadline for submitting the application to the Chapter.
- Applicant will not be enrolled in classes in the coming semester
- Applicant does not provide all REQUIRED supporting documentation
- Application contains an essay or substantial parts of an essay written by another person
- Application is not legible
- Application is not signed or certified by the applicant in each spot indicated.

Return your completed application to your Chapter Scholarship Chair by May 1, 2026.

Aaron White, Scholarship/Awards Committee Chair

aaron.white@hdrinc.com

Call 757.222.1549 for additional information

Application Information

1. Applicant Information

First Name	Last Name	
Mailing Address	City	State/Province Zip/Postal Code
Phone	Email Address	
SWANA Member # (Self or qualifying family member)	Chapter Affiliation	

2. College/University Information

Name of School		
Mailing Address	City	State/Province Zip/Postal Code
Faulty Advisor Name	Phone	Email
Major		

How does your major relate to a career in the solid waste industry?

3. Academics = 30%

Required:

Attach a copy of your college/university transcripts through the conclusion of the most recent period (quarter, trimester, semester). To aid the Committee's review, indicate your cumulative mark or grade point average here and identify the scale used (e.g., 4.0 on a 4.0 scale), if applicable.

Applicant's GPA or cumulative score	Maximum in the scoring/scale used
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Optional:

Attach documentation of any other **academic performance, awards, or recognition** and/or letters of recommendation related to academic performance you believe the Scholarship Committee should consider.

Application Information

4. Relationship of Studies to Solid Waste Management = 50%

Required: All three items must be included with your application.

Complete and sign the forms that ask for additional information about coursework and internships related to solid waste management and/or a potential career in the industry.

Attach a letter about your academic performance from your faculty advisor or key professor in your studies related to solid waste management.

Attach a one-page, original essay about the way in which your course work, internships, and/or overall studies will contribute to improving the management of waste as a resource or to addressing an environmental issue related to solid waste that is currently in the news.

5. Other Activities = 20%

Required:

Complete and sign the form that asks for information about your Other Activities. Attach documentation and/or letters of support that will help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score your application. If you do not participate in Other Activities, sign the bottom of the blank page.

Optional:

Attach a current copy of your resume.

6. Financial Need

You may attach a short statement of your financial need, describing how this scholarship will help offset tuition and related expenses and listing any other scholarships or educational funding received to-date. Please do not attach forms or other documents containing confidential personal information.

7. Signatures

Signature of Applicant

Date

Completed Course(s) List

Please provide the course title, credit hours, grade earned, and up to a 25-word description of your course work that relates to solid waste management and/or a career in the industry. Copy the page if you need more space..

Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

I verify that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Internships/Assistantships

Provide enough information to allow the Committee to what you did and its relevance to solid waste management. Please limit your description to no more than 250 words. Copy the page as needed to address additional internships and assistantships.

Internship/Assistantship

Supervisor's Name

Title

Phone

Email

Description

Internship/Assistantship

Supervisor's Name

Title

Phone

Email

Description

I verify that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Other Activities

Other activities are activities and programs that can be connected with your studies, school participation, or entirely unrelated (volunteer activities, military service, employment). Provide enough information that Committee members can understand your participation. Keep it brief and copy the page if you need more space.

Activity

Duration & Frequency

How did you participate

Activity

Duration & Frequency

How did you participate

Activity

Duration & Frequency

How did you participate

I verify that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Checklist

Have you filled out and attached the following documents to complete your scholarship application?

Required

College/university transcript
Letter from your faculty advisor or key professor
One-page essay on the topic identified in Question 4
All forms

Applicant Specific

Documentation of academic achievement, awards, and honors

Optional/If Available

Resume

Return your completed application by May 1, 2025.

Return your completed application to your Chapter Scholarship Chair by May 1, 2025.

Aaron White, Scholarship/Awards Committee Chair

aaron.white@hdrinc.com

Call 757.222.1549 for additional information