

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Foundation Scholarship Application 2026



Application Deadline: MARCH 2, 2026

The Foundation provides financial awards to graduating high school seniors from Kankakee County who demonstrate academic ability, financial need, good general character, and a desire to attend college.

Goals of the Scholarship Program

1. To provide financial assistance to deserving Kankakee County graduating high school seniors
2. To allow for the development of potential leaders from Kankakee County
3. To recognize high school graduates who have demonstrated service to the school, community, or church, as well as good academic ability and a financial need

Procedures for applying (all four must be submitted)

1. Complete the scholarship application
2. Attach an official high school transcript or statement signed by high school counselor showing Grade Point Average (GPA).
Official ACT or SAT scores are OPTIONAL.
3. Write in your own style, using your own words, the answers to these four questions:
(Use page 5 of the form or a separate sheet of paper)
 - a. Please tell us about yourself. How do you view yourself in terms of school now and in the future?
 - a. What are your future goals?
 - b. Where do you think you need the most improvement (academically, socially, personally, or other)?
 - c. How would you benefit from the MLK, Jr., Scholarship?
4. Attach a copy (to this application) of the ACCEPTANCE LETTER from your college of choice.

Instructions

Answer all the questions completely and accurately, using black ink, legibly written; a typewriter; or text boxes via a computer. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS; LEAVE NO BLANKS

Personal Information

Name _____
Last First Middle

Home Address _____
Number and street City State Zip

High School Attending _____

Contact numbers: Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail address: _____

Father's Name: _____
Last First

Mother's Name: _____
Last First

Statement of Parent or Guardian

I have read the attached statement of intent, expenses and resources, and others details, and verify that to the best of my knowledge, the information presented is accurate, with no intentional effort to misrepresent the applicant.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Answer all the questions completely and accurately, using black ink, legibly written; a typewriter; or text boxes via a computer. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS; LEAVE NO BLANKS

Statement of Intent:

Where will you be attending college or university?

Proposed occupation or profession _____

Brief statement about why this field of study is chosen:

Statement of Family Income

Father's occupation _____ annual net income _____

Mother's occupation _____ annual net income _____

List other assets or resources of father and mother _____

List amount of disposable family income which could assist applicant with college expenses:

List other members in the immediate family _____

Provide details about family obligations or assets which might be helpful in evaluating the applicant's available funds for college. _____

NOTE – Awards are given in the form of non-binding loans with the hope that someday the applicant will be able to assist others in Kankakee County to attend college.

Answer all the questions completely and accurately, using black ink, legibly written, a typewriter, or text boxes via a computer. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS; LEAVE NO BLANKS

College Costs and Applicant's Resources

1. Total cost for one year at the college of applicant's choice, including tuition, fees, books, room and board. _____
2. Resources available to the applicant to offset these costs, such as employment, parental assistance, loans, grants, and other sources _____

3. Explain the alternate plan to meet your goal if your financial resources do not meet the cost of your college choice (community college, waiting a semester, and others)

Applicant's Experience

1. List activities in high school, such as music groups, sports teams, school clubs, and others, and provide the years participating. Example: football team, 1,2,3,4

2. List community or church involvement, and number of years participating

3. List employment experiences and length of time employed

Instructions

Write on the lines below (or on a separate sheet of paper), the answers to the following questions, signing your name at the bottom as verification of your ideas presented in this application document:

- 1.** Briefly describe yourself in terms of attending school now and in the future
- 2.** Describe the future goals of your life
- 3.** Where do you believe you need the most improvement (academically, socially, personally, or other)?
- 4.** How will you benefit from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page.

Applicant's signature

Date _____

Send completed application and attachments to:

Dr. Patricia Polk, Foundation President
353 North Chicago Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

OR

Carol Webber, Scholarship Committee Chairman
P. O. Box 341
Herscher, IL 60941

Email: cwebber@retiree.kcc.edu

Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Evaluation Form

1. Completion of form (1 point each if completed correctly - 0 points if not completed correctly) p 2

- a. Name _____ point
- b. Address, City, State _____ point
- c. Name of High School _____ point
- d. Telephone Number(s) _____ point
- e. Email address _____ point
- f. Father's Name _____ point
- g. Mother's Name _____ point
- h. Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ point
- i. Date of Completion _____ point
- j. Signature of Applicant with date p.5 _____ point
- k. Official Transcript p. 1 _____ point
- l. Official Acceptance letter p. 1 _____ point

2. Completion of Statement of Intent p. 3

Clearly stated 5 points	Generally stated 4 points	Not well stated 3 points	Not available 0 points
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3. Completion of Family Income p. 3

Clearly stated 5 points	Generally stated 4 points	Not well stated 3 points	Not available 0 points
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4. Completion of College Costs and Applicant's Resources p. 4

Clearly stated 5 points	Generally stated 4 points	Not well stated 2 points	Not available 0 points
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5. Completion of Applicant's Experience p. 4

Clearly stated 5 points	Generally stated 4 points	Not well stated 2 points	Not available 0 points
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6. Applicant's Essay p. 5

Answered 4 parts well 20 points	Answered 3 parts well 15 points	Answered 2 parts well 10 points	Answered 1 or less parts well 5 points
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7. Evaluation of applicant's acceptance letter - included

Clearly stated 5 points	Not well stated 2 points	Not attached 0 points
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8. Overall Impression of Application Materials (extra credit)

Excellent, deserving student 10 points	Moderately deserving student 5 points	Not recommended 0 points
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SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR _____ **Date** _____ **TOTAL POINTS** _____