



# 2012 Opportunity Scholarship Guidelines

## Important Dates to Remember

November 2011  
March 4, 2012  
March 5, 2012  
May 2012  
May 23, 2012

Release of 2012 Online Application  
ONLINE scholarship application due  
Supplemental documentation packet postmarked  
Recipient selection notification  
Awards Banquet

In 2012, The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ will award 114 four-year, \$16,000 Opportunity Scholarships to outstanding students graduating from Houston-area public school districts in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Educational Programs are a significant part of the Show's goals of benefiting youth, supporting education, and facilitating better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. All recipients of Show scholarships must demonstrate academic potential, citizenship/leadership and financial need, and they must attend a Texas college or university.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible to apply for, or to be awarded, a Opportunity Scholarship, an applicant must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, appropriate proof of citizenship must be furnished (i.e., a copy of the photo page of a valid U. S. passport, a copy of Naturalization Certificate or a birth certificate for U. S. Citizen Born Abroad). Applications submitted without proof of citizenship will not be considered. Students with permanent resident status are not eligible to apply.
2. Be a Texas resident.
3. Attend a public high school in one of the Houston-area public school districts in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties
4. Be a graduating senior in the 2011-2012 school year.
5. Score at least a 1210 on the SAT or 17 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 form sent by SAT/ACT or a high school transcript listing scores. SAT score must be comprised of total points from the critical reading, mathematics and writing sections of the test from a single testing date. No updated test scores or academic scores or rankings will be accepted after the application due date.
6. Be ranked in the top half (1/2) of the graduating class, at the completion of the first semester of the senior year. This ranking is to be verified as a part of the official transcript or by an accompanying certification from an appropriate school official.
7. Complete and pass all necessary standardized tests for graduation and admittance to the college and/or university declared in the scholarship application.
8. Have made formal application to enroll with intent to attend an accredited, not-for-profit Texas college or university and participate in a curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. The Scholarship Applicant must:
  - a. Complete and submit the online portion of the application prior to the deadline.
  - b. Submit a completed supplemental documentation packet, including:
    - Individual Scholastic Record completed and signed by a school records official
    - the student's official transcript for entire high school education to date (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades), must be original, no copies accepted
    - official proof of either SAT or ACT score

- copy of the student's FAFSA Student Aid Report
  - signed Certification and Authorization for Verification form
  - include confirmation number on all documents
- c. Contain no supplemental pages that are not requested or required.
2. Opportunity Scholarship applications are only available online through the Show's website, [www.rodeohouston.com](http://www.rodeohouston.com), under the Scholarship Area. The Supplemental Documentation packet must be mailed or hand delivered, in one packet, to the Show's Office of Educational Programs.
  3. The Individual Scholastic Record includes the student's class rank, GPA and the maximum possible GPA of the school. The ISR must be completed and verified by a school records official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.).
  4. Applicants are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit a copy of their Student Aid Report (SAR), which is obtained once the FAFSA is accepted. Please note that it takes approximately one week after submitting the application for you to receive the report.
  5. A recipient of any Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship may not receive more than \$75,000 in funding from financial aid, grants or any other scholarships for the four year term of an undergraduate degree. This does not include the Show Scholarship or loans. If selected to receive a Show scholarship, the applicant must provide verification of all other financial aid, grants or scholarships received. The scholarship award is not confirmed without such verification and failure to completely disclose all financial aid or other scholarships shall be considered grounds for forfeiture of the award.
  6. Additional documents must be postmarked or delivered to the Show office no later than the deadline date of March 5, 2012. An application is not complete until the Office of Educational Programs has received the required documents. **Incomplete applications will not be accepted!**

Required documents may be mailed to:  
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo  
Office of Educational Programs  
P.O. Box 20070  
Houston, Texas 77225-0070

Or delivered to:  
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo  
Office of Educational Programs  
Reliant Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
8334 Fannin Street  
Houston, Texas 77054

## **SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT DATES**

It is the sole responsibility of each applicant and their parent/guardian to be aware of all dates and deadlines.

**The Show will not accept or consider any late applications, no exceptions will be made.**

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|----------------|--|
| November, 2011 | Release of 2012 Online Application   |
| March 4, 2012  | ONLINE scholarship application due by midnight   |
| March 5, 2012  | Supplemental documentation packet due (must be postmarked or delivered to the Show office) |
| May 2012       | Recipient selection notification   |
| May 23, 2012   | Awards Banquet   |

## **EVALUATION PROCEDURE**

All completed applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of judges selected by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Incomplete and non-qualifying applications will not be considered. Each application is scored based on academic achievement, high school leadership, activities, awards, community involvement and financial need.

## **NOTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS**

Final approval and notification of each scholarship recipient will be made by the Show's Office of Educational Programs in May of 2012.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Recipients will be expected to attend the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship Reception to be held in Houston on May 23, 2012, for the presentation of the scholarship awards.

Applications will not be returned and become property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has the right to refuse and/or retract any scholarship application or scholarship award during the judging, awarding or post awarding process. Refusal/retraction can be based on, but not limited to, unfactual and incorrect information provided in the application or failure to meet any of the requirements.