

The Milton Fisher Scholarship for Innovation and Creativity

2010
Application
Form

This form may be photocopied. For updated (2011 and beyond) forms, use <www.rbffoundation.org>.

My name is _____ I was born on _____ / _____ / _____
First Middle Last Jr., etc Month Day Year

This year (2009-10), I am (check one):

- a high school Junior (defined as graduating 2011)
 a high school Senior (graduating/graduated 2010)
 out of school, but applying to college for 2010-2011
 a first-year college student

For high school, I go/went to:

Name of School _____ City _____ State _____ Years Attended _____
Name of School _____ City _____ State _____ Years Attended _____

My college major will likely be: _____

The college I attend, or plan to attend, to which this scholarship would apply, is:

- I have / have not (check one) already applied. If you have applied, indicate above where you have been admitted or waitlisted.*
 I have / have not (check one) yet decided on one school. If undecided, write your top few choices in the blank above.

*Applicants who have been admitted to college (or waitlisted) must submit a photocopy of the letter of acceptance (or the wait list letter) for verification. Current first-year college students need only send their transcript (see over for more information).

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Street Address and Apartment Number _____ Phone Number (____) _____ - _____ * Email address _____
Street Address Line 2 _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
We reserve the right to interview some applicants—by phone, on a case-by-case basis. We do not generally interview applicants, and you should not assume you have not won the scholarship just because we do not contact you. If we were to interview you, it would be in **July or August. so let us know how to reach you.*

2. MAIN ESSAY QUESTION

Have you solved a scientific, artistic or technical problem in a new and unusual way? Have you come up with a distinctive and original solution to a problem faced by your school, community or family? On a separate sheet, in **800 words or less**, please tell us about it. Please be specific. Give us details. Tell us what you did, and why. This is the most important part of your application essay (along with the letters of recommendation, and any other materials that corroborate what you describe here). [The *originality* of your project is key: founding a branch of a national organization in your community or school, for example, would not qualify as sufficiently fresh or distinctive.]

Your essay should focus primarily on one specific achievement. However, you should also try to show us that that instance was part of a pattern in your life of taking the initiative to find creative, innovative solutions to problems. NOTE: You may include **additional materials** other than this essay to *show* us the activities or projects that you describe here. If you do send any additional materials, please send **8 copies** of these materials.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION: SHORT ESSAY ABOUT PLANS AND GOALS

We are interested in knowing what you will do with this scholarship. What are your immediate (college) plans and your more long-term goals? What do you hope to accomplish? How do these goals build on what you have already accomplished? Also, we would like to know about special circumstances or obstacles that you have overcome or are overcoming in your life that you have not already told us about. Answer these questions in an additional short essay of **400 words or less**.

4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION: ACTIVITIES / EMPLOYMENT / OTHER PURSUITS

We are interested in hearing how you spend most of your time. Please list briefly (on an extra page if you prefer, using the format below) the main ways you spend your time—jobs, school & community activities & organizations, sports, hobbies and projects, special family responsibilities, etc. Explain in a few words what each activity is (don't write more than a sentence).

Activity (name and/or brief description) _____ Hours/week _____ Any offices, awards, honors, accomplishments, etc. _____

5. SUPPORTING ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The primary criteria for this scholarship are innovation and creativity. But understanding what you are doing in school will help us get a more complete picture of you. So please **enclose a sealed, current transcript** from any high school or college you have attended in the last two years. (You can have the transcript(s) mailed in separately.)

Please tell us your scores on any tests you have taken: PSAT: _____ / _____ SAT: _____ / _____ ACT: _____ / _____
Verbal Math Verbal Math English Math

6. OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS / GRANTS

Have you received any other scholarships or grants? If so, give their names, amounts, and the schools to which they apply:

7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Your financial need **does not affect your chances of winning** the Milton Fisher Scholarship. However, the **amount** of the Scholarship is determined on the basis of financial need. Income and tax figures should match your most recent tax forms. **Please include a photocopy of your parent(s)' IRS 1040(s).** (The questions below refer to parent(s)' financial information.) If you file a 1040 yourself, please submit a copy also. You may include additional information about exceptional circumstances.

State of Residence: CT NY Other: _____

Marital Status of Guardian (Married, Divorced, Separated, Widowed, or Single)

Adjusted Gross Income

Total U.S. Income Tax Paid

Total Income of Father/Guardian

Total Income of Mother/Guardian

Untaxed Income and Benefits; Social Security; AFDC, ADC, Other

Medical and Dental Expenses not paid by insurance

Total Cash, Savings, Checking, and Stocks

Total Number of Exemptions Claimed

Total Number of immediate family members attending college at least half time during the next school year, including applicant (if applicant will be in college next year): _____

8. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Your answers to these questions will not affect either your chances of winning or the amount of your scholarship. We are collecting this information for statistical purposes. However, these questions are not optional—please answer them.

What is your race/ethnicity? _____

What is the highest level of education your parent(s) completed?

What is your gender? Female Male

Parent: _____ Parent: _____

Are you or your family recent immigrants to the U.S.?

less than high school

less than high school

First generation (applicant born outside U.S.)

high school

high school

Second generation (one or both parents born outside U.S.)

some college

some college

Third generation (1-4 grandparents born outside U.S.)

college degree

college degree

More than third generation (grandparents born in U.S.)

masters degree +

masters degree +

9. CHECKLIST -- YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE WHEN IT INCLUDES:

- This application form (signed below)
- Main essay
- Supplemental short essay
- Photocopy of IRS 1040
- 8 copies of additional supporting materials
- Photocopy of Letter of Admission to college (if applicable)
- Letter of Recommendation #1 (CHECK if sent separately)
- Letter of Recommendation #2 (CHECK if sent separately)
- Current transcript(s) from school(s) (CHECK if sent separately)

10. GIVING US MORE INFORMATION

If you believe we need more information to evaluate your application fully, please submit it. In particular, please consider sending us supporting/corroborating information such as pictures or other materials to help us understand the projects/activities you described in your main essay. Please send 8 copies of any supporting materials

11. LAST QUESTION

How did you hear about this scholarship?

12. CERTIFICATION

In submitting this application, I certify that all the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the falsification of information may result in termination of scholarship grants. I understand that all information will be considered confidential for review by the Foundation.

Your complete application should be **postmarked by April 12, 2010** and sent to:

Milton Fisher Scholarship
c/o Community Foundation for
Greater New Haven
70 Audubon Street
New Haven, CT
06510



APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

Date

The Milton Fisher Scholarship for Innovation and Creativity

2010 Letter of Recommendation Form

This form may be photocopied

Two letters of recommendation should be submitted with any application. If possible, at least one should be from a teacher, college counselor, advisor, or principal. **It will greatly improve an applicant's chances if at least one letter comes from an adult who can describe the innovative or creative activities or projects the applicant described in her/his application essay.**

Dear Recommender --

An applicant for our scholarship has asked you to provide some supporting information. Thank you for taking the time to help us—we really appreciate your efforts. Please answer the questions below on the back of this form or attach a letter addressing the same issues.

Thank you so much again,
The Milton Fisher Scholarship Committee

This recommendation is for: _____
First Middle Last Jr., etc.

RECOMMENDER QUESTIONS

Please use the back of this page or a separate, attached sheet.

1. How do you know this applicant? How long have you known her/him?

2. This scholarship is not a traditional scholarship. Instead, our goal is to reward **innovative and creative problem solving**. We are looking for:

- *Students who have solved artistic, scientific, or technical problems in new or unusual ways; or*
- *Students who have come up with distinctive and ORIGINAL solutions to problems faced by their schools, communities, or families*

Why, from your knowledge of this applicant, would he or she be a suitable candidate for this scholarship? What is original and significant about what he or she has done?

Note: It would be useful to the committee if you could provide your perspective on the significance of the project or activity the applicant described in his or her application.

4. What else can you tell us about this applicant that would be relevant to our assessment of her/his suitability for this scholarship?

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION

Recommender's Name _____ Title _____ Phone Number _____

Address (Street, City, State, ZIP; Teachers & school personnel should use school address.) _____

** Please write your phone number and other contact information for **JULY/AUGUST**. If we were to need to contact you regarding the applicant, we would expect to do that in July or August. **

Email _____ SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

HOW TO RETURN THIS FORM: TWO OPTIONS

- mail this form or your letter directly to: Milton Fisher Scholarship, c/o Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, 70 Audubon Street, New Haven, CT 06510, **postmarked by April 12**, or
- seal this form or your letter in an envelope, sign the envelope along the flap, and return it to the applicant to submit with the application.

