

THE ESTHER FUND GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Gender & Women's Studies Program
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Spring 2021 Application—Deadline: February 5, 2021

DESCRIPTION

This fund honors Jay Fiene's mother and all the Esthers in the world who have lacked opportunity not ability. This scholarship assists graduate students enrolled in the WKU GWS Graduate Certificate who wish to further serve and educate on behalf of women. Dr. Fiene says, "Mom was taken out of school after 8th grade, but she was an education advocate. No one in my family has gone past a bachelor's except me, and many haven't finished college. Many days, her support and encouragement carried me. So, in her honor—in that Esther moved me just as Esther moved Haman, ruler of the enemy camp, on behalf of her people—let the Esther Fund move women forward."

DISBURSEMENT

One scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded each academic year with no restrictions on spending (\$500 in the fall and \$500 in the spring).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Scholarship recipients must meet all the criteria listed below by the beginning of the semester for which the scholarship will be awarded. Former recipients are eligible. Students must:

1. Be officially enrolled in the **Gender & Women's Studies Graduate Certificate**;
2. Have completed or be in the process of completing a minimum of 6 graduate semester hours with an overall grade point average of at least 3.0;
3. Be taking at least 6 semester hours;
4. Have completed or be in the process of completing one of the core courses in Gender & Women's Studies;
5. Demonstrate commitment to improving women's lives through scholarship, service, activism and/or advocacy regarding women's issues, problems, and concerns.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The applicant will supply the selection committee with the following documents:

1. Complete application;
2. A college transcript;
3. Two letters of recommendation
4. A writing sample that demonstrates a particular feminist historical, theoretical, or methodological perspective.

SELECTION PROCEDURES

The Scholarship Committee will be responsible for soliciting applications and selecting recipients. Recipients will be announced at the annual Gender & Women's Studies Awards Ceremony TBA. We ask that recipients be present at the awards ceremony and prepare comments of about two minutes.

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1. Full Name _____
last first middle/former WKU 800#

2. Local Address _____
street city/state zip

3. Phone () _____

4. Currently enrolled? ____yes ____no Expected Date of Graduation? ____/____/____

5. GRADUATE PROGRAM: _____

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR: _____ MINOR: _____

6. GPA: GRADUATE LEVEL _____ UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL _____

6b. Semester hours earned prior to current semester _____

7. Have you filed *Form C* for the Graduate Certificate in Gender & Women's Studies? ____yes ____no

8. List any Gender & Women's Studies courses that you have completed and/or currently taking:

<i>Date Completed</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Grade</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

9. Professional and volunteer experience:

10. Campus/Community Activities and Responsibilities (include memberships and offices held):

Other Required Documents

In addition to this form, please supply an unofficial grad transcript, two letters of recommendation, and a writing sample that demonstrates a particular feminist historical, theoretical, or methodological perspective.

Drop off completed materials to Renee Purdy at Gender & Women's Studies (Cherry Hall 301).