

Missouri Baptist Heritage Scholarship Application

Valid for High School Seniors and College Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

A maximum of four scholarships are awarded annually to students attending, or planning to attend, Hannibal-LaGrange University, Missouri Baptist University, Southwest Baptist University, or Spurgeon College at Midwestern Seminary. These scholarships are awarded to the students that best complete the spirit and letter of this scholarship application. This scholarship is nontransferable and will be applied exclusively to defray part of the tuition cost at one of these schools. Should the winner decide not to attend one of these schools the scholarship committee reserves the right to re-award that scholarship to another individual.

The Missouri Baptist Historical Commission has prepared a Research Paper Writing Guideline; within this are the expectations and requirements of this scholarship. While we do not specify a topic to be covered, we do expect it to be one of interest to Missouri Baptists, so be creative in discovering Missouri Baptist, Southwest Baptist University, Hannibal-LaGrange University, or Missouri Baptist University history as you share it with us. It is required that the paper cover some aspect of Missouri Baptist history.

By submitting any paper to the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission (MBHC), whether selected for the scholarship or not, the author grants and assigns to the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission the right to copy, print, distribute, sell or otherwise use that information in whatever form it deems appropriate without any compensation to the author. In submitting an application, the author certifies that the work is original and any copyrighted material is from attribution. The author also retains the right to copy, print, and sell this material after the decision on the scholarship is approved for that year.

God grant you wisdom as you pursue your aspirations of a Christian education at Southwest Baptist, Missouri Baptist, Hannibal-LaGrange, or Spurgeon College, and knowledge as you complete this scholarship.

Please complete the following and return to the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission no later than April 22 for the fall semester of the same year. Before awarding these scholarships, we will verify the information on this application and may contact the school counselor and pastor before informing the applicant of the outcome of their submission.

Name: _____

Address (street, city, zip): _____

Telephone Number: (home) _____ (cell or alternate number) _____

Which Missouri Baptist university are you interested in attending? HLGU MBU SBU Spurgeon

College Grade Level? Pre-Collegiate Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

High School Attended: _____

High School Counselors Name: _____ Counselors Phone: _____

High School Address: _____

Church Attending: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

How long have you attended? _____ Church Phone Number: _____

How often do you attend church? _____

Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ (use the back of this form or an attached sheet).

Missouri Baptist Heritage Scholarship Research Paper Writing Guide

Southwest Baptist University (SBU), Missouri Baptist University (MBU), Hannibal-LaGrange University (HLGU), and Spurgeon College at Midwestern Seminary are cooperating with the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission to offer four- \$2,000 scholarships annually to students attending SBU, HLGU, MBU, or Spurgeon.

Each \$2,000 scholarship will be established through a \$1,000 donation from the MBC Historical Commission and a \$1,000 match from the school.

Applicants must do research and write a paper **on some aspect of Missouri Baptist history**. Papers submitted that do not cover some aspect of Missouri Baptist history will be deemed ineligible. All papers must be submitted no later than April 22 for the fall semester of the same year. Please submit in Microsoft WORD via email to jnewbold@mobaptist.org.

Paper Format Requirements

1. Use standard MLA format with the following exceptions
 - a. 12 point Times New Roman font
 - b. 1 inch borders
 - c. Footnote on each content page that contains Page number, person's name, and church
 - d. Title Page with the following included.
 - I. Title of Paper
 - II. Author's Name, Address and Phone Number
 - III. College applied for (HLGU, MBU, or SBU)
 - IV. Church Attended and Pastor's Name
 - V. Date Submitted
2. Require five pages minimum and ten pages maximum content, does not include Title Page and Works Cited pages.
3. Have a clear propositional thesis statement (preferably on the first page) that states what you intend to accomplish with the paper.
4. Use the body of the paper to establish your thesis and a conclusion to wrap it up. (Note: it is often a good idea to re-state your thesis in your conclusion and explain how the body of your paper proves it).
5. Require a minimum four primary and four secondary sources. If you acquire a reference from the internet you must attempt to find its original source.
6. Deadline for submission is April 22 for the fall semester of the same year.
7. Submit application, testimony, and paper via email in Microsoft WORD to jnewbold@mobaptist.org.
8. Provided within this guide are tips on doing the research, tips on formal writing and key features of a good research paper. These tips and keys are not merely suggestions. They will be used as a guide when grading the research paper.

Tips on Doing the Research

- ▶ Choose a very narrow and specific subject. Stay away from general themes.
- ▶ Start your research immediately, gathering information bit by bit and allowing time to thoughtfully read and digest it in your mind.
- ▶ Organize your research as you go to avoid redoing the same work.
- ▶ Develop a working outline early, but make it flexible. Let the research drive the shape of the outline, not the reverse.
- ▶ Begin by searching journal articles, and use the bibliographies provided in these articles to lead you to further sources.
- ▶ Include a significant amount of primary source material on your topic. These are sources that were written by the person under discussion, or during the time period under discussion.
- ▶ Never rely on a source that cannot be documented.

Tips on Formal Writing

- ▶ Use clear simple sentences with strong verbs. Sentences that are too long often lose clarity and focus.
- ▶ Avoid passive verbs. This makes your writing weak.
- ▶ Write in the third person. Do not slip into the informal second person “you” or the first person “I” or “we”.
- ▶ Write in the simple past tense.
- ▶ Do not trust grammar and spell checkers to catch every error. They cannot catch certain errors, such as the difference between there and their.
- ▶ Do not use clichés or slang.
- ▶ Do not use contractions (do not instead of don’t).

Key Features of a Good Research Paper

1. **A clear propositional thesis.** This is a statement of opinion or interpretation. This is not simply a purpose statement. For example, the following is a purpose statement: “This paper will explore the life of the sixteenth-century German reformer Martin Luther.” A thesis statement is more like: “More than any other individual, Martin Luther was the catalyst that sparked the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth-century.” A thesis statement is a propositional/declarative statement that you seek to establish or prove with the rest of the paper. The thesis statement must appear within the introduction. Typically, it should appear toward the end of the introduction. After the thesis, a good paper goes on to supply supportive evidence and argument for it. NOTE! You will not form a thesis until you have done a good amount of your research. Most often a good thesis results from the research done to answer an interesting, investigative question.
2. **Good internal logic and organization.** A good research paper exhibits evidence that the writer has properly digested the material. This becomes evident, not just in a clear, well stated thesis, but also in the manner in which the body of the paper is organized. The paper should have a logical flow that leads the reader through a coherent progression of thought. Each major section should have a clear purpose for its inclusion in the paper. There is no rule about how many major sections of body you may need. Let the content of your research determine the logical and natural division of the body of the paper. The body should be free of logical contradictions of information that becomes confusing or ambiguous.

3. **Creative introduction and conclusion.** The “meat” of the paper is in the body where you unpack all your research and present the evidence and argument that supports your thesis. Your thesis should be stated at the end of your introduction and reworded in a restatement in the conclusion. However, at the beginning of the introduction you want to draw your reader in with some attention-grabbing statements or questions, which like a funnel will narrow until you introduce your thesis. In the conclusion, the paper should begin with a restatement of the thesis (reworded), and then finish with some broader statements about the subject. Again, this is where you may shine through your creativity.
4. **Evidence of research.** The majority of work in a research paper is the research itself, not the writing. You must spend the proper time in the library, discovering the relevant sources, and discerning what information to include. Your goal should be to discover all the sources you can that will inform you well on your subject, not to just reach the minimum of sources required in the assignment. Of course, it is not expected that your research is exhaustive, but only adequate for your topic. A paper will clearly demonstrate in its content, if you have done adequate research or not.
5. **Well written and conforms to proper style.** Although content is of major concern for your paper, proper grammar and style are not unimportant. A paper should be written in grammatically correct paragraph and sentence form. Do not list anything! A paper that is poorly written distracts from what could be good ideas and good research.

Have someone proof your paper. This is essential if English is a second language to you. Or, read your paper backwards by sentences, making sure that each sentence is free from errors, and that each one is clear by itself.

If you are serious about competent and scholarly work, then two books are essential:

Bradley, James E., Church History: An Introduction to Research, Reference Works, and Methods. Eerdmans: G.R. Michigan, 1995.

Fischer, David Hackett., Historians' Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought. First Harper Torchbooks: N.Y, 1970.

Note: The Historical Commission is not required to grant any scholarships. Thus, scholarships may be awarded provided any papers presented not only meet with the minimum requirements, but if they also receive consensual agreement from the commissioners that they deserve consideration.