



## **MEOA Scholarship 2024**

**General Information:** The Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association (MEOA) invites you to nominate an applicant for the MEOA Annual Scholarship Award program. The MEOA Scholarship program was created in 1988 to assist undergraduate students in their pursuit of higher education. **Four scholarships of \$1000 each** will be awarded to eligible college students who have demonstrated the ability to overcome significant obstacles and attain educational excellence. The selection of recipients will represent the diversity of traditional and non-traditional students served by College Access Programs represented by the MEOA membership. This is in keeping with MEOA's long-term commitment to ensuring all individuals have access to an appropriate higher education.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The nominee must:

- Be a **current participant** or **graduate** of a College Access Program in Massachusetts
- Be enrolled in a college or university or set to enroll following high school graduation.
- Be pursuing a degree in an undergraduate or graduate program.
- Have demonstrated financial need.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

To be considered for this scholarship, the following must be submitted to the scholarship committee:

- The MEOA scholarship nomination form and a letter of recommendation from the sponsoring nominator, who is a College Access Program professional and an MEOA member in good standing with current membership dues.  
*Contact Ashley Booker, MEOA Membership Chair, at [Ashley.Booker@suffolk.edu](mailto:Ashley.Booker@suffolk.edu) to verify your membership status. **Please note: each member of MEOA will only be allowed to nominate one student per year. Multiple students from the same program can be nominated, but each student must have a separate sponsoring nominator.***
- The application packet completed by the applicant (must be neat and legible).
- Most recent transcript.
- Essays as detailed on the Personal Essays page (must be typed with page numbers).
- 2024-2025 financial aid award letter or 2023-2024 financial aid award letter for returning college students.
- A signed consent and release form.

### **Recipients must:**

- Attend the Scholarship Award Ceremony at the MEOA Conference in **Worcester, MA**. Specific Scholarship Ceremony will be held on either **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**, or **Thursday, October 3, 2024**. (Details will be provided later).  
**\*If it is impossible for a recipient to attend, a video acceptance speech must be submitted instead.**
- Supply a picture/digital image (yearbook size).
- Provide an electronic copy of their personal essay.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

The completed application with ALL requested information must be emailed by **Friday, June 7, 2024**. Applications will only be considered if complete and submitted by this date. Recipients will be notified in early September.

**E-MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**  
**Suamy Ventura**  
[Suamy.Ventura@umb.edu](mailto:Suamy.Ventura@umb.edu)



# **MEOA Scholarship 2024 Student Application Form**

**(to be completed by nominee)**

**Please type or write neatly.**

Student Name:		Date:
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Email Address:		
Telephone Number:		Cell Phone Number:

**What college/university will you attend in the fall of 2024.**

Institution Name:		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:

## **Financial Information**

Please fill out the following information. This information will be used to help understand the nominee's potential financial need.

### **Estimated cost of attendance**

This includes tuition, all academic fees, room/board (or cost of commuting) and books for 2024-2025 academic year.

### **Student Aid Index**

Found in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Submission Summary.

### **Grants and scholarships**

Include any state or federal grants, scholarships from your college or university, and outside scholarships that have been offered to you.



## **MEOA Scholarship 2024 Personal Essays (to be completed by nominee)**

All applicants must submit a long essay and one short essay from the options provided. This is an opportunity to explain, in your own words, why you deserve this scholarship. Essays must be typed with page numbers and should **not exceed the word limit**.

### **Long essay: All applicants must answer the following prompt. (Limit: 750 words)**

Please write an essay about your educational and career goals, aspirations for the future, and how you plan to obtain them. How can your educational and career goals impact your community or society? How can the MEOA scholarship help you achieve your goals?

### **Short essay: All applicants are required to submit one short essay. Please select a prompt to answer from the options provided below. (Limit: 300 words)**

1. Resiliency and overcoming obstacles  
Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
2. Extracurricular and community experience  
Please tell us about an activity you do at school, in your community, or at home that is most significant to you. Why is this activity important to you? How has this activity influenced you and your college and career plans?
3. Educational achievements  
Highlight any academic or leadership experiences that demonstrate your potential to make a positive impact.
4. Financial circumstances  
Please explain how receiving the MEOA scholarship would make a difference for your family and in your ability to attend college.



## **MEOA Scholarship 2024 Consent and Release Form (to be completed by nominee)**

The Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association (MEOA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, tax-exempt organization made up of educators, policy makers, professionals in the private sector and other individuals committed to ensuring that secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities are appropriate and accessible to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In order to promote its program, MEOA issues publications, annual reports, newsletters, fact books and press releases, and posts on various social media and websites.

All scholarship applicants' essays and applications become the property of MEOA. By submitting application materials, applicants grant MEOA the right to use their name, likeness, and all application materials in publications as the board sees fit. This may include all forms of print and electronic media, as well as all MEOA publications, newsletters, alumni information and other documents.

### **My photo and essay or parts of my essay may be published in the following places: (please check your preferences)**

\_\_\_\_\_ All of the below

\_\_\_\_\_ Only those items I have checked

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA Conference Booklet

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA Website

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA Fact Book (used for advocacy and educating lawmakers)

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA Newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_ MEOA social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not want my photo or essay to be published

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) hereby acknowledge that I have reviewed and understand the purpose of this disclaimer, which is given to me by MEOA. I attest that I am legally eligible to sign this release as an adult who is at least eighteen years old or as a parent/guardian signing on behalf of my child. I grant MEOA full permission to utilize pictures, quotations and video of me or my son/daughter for publications, advertising and public relations. I hereby release MEOA and any of its associates or affiliated companies, their directors, officers and employees from all claims of every kind on accounts of such use. I understand that I may revoke this agreement at any time by contacting MEOA officers and requesting such action be taken.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18 years of age)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## **MEOA Scholarship 2024 Scholarship Nomination Form (to be completed by nominator)**

Please type or write neatly.

Student Name:	Phone Number:
Street Address:	
City, State and Zip Code:	Email Address:

Thank you for nominating the student mentioned above for the MEOA scholarship. Scholarships are awarded to students in Massachusetts for demonstrating that they have overcome obstacles, have had success with their educational goals, and strive to continue that success at a higher educational institution. The nominator must be an MEOA member. The review committee is interested in having a clear picture of who this student is, so please be very thorough and provide as many detailed examples as you can. **Please note: Each nominator will be limited to one student nomination per year.**

On a separate page, please answer the following questions. Please type.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the nominee?
2. What are the nominee's personal circumstances that prompted you to nominate them? In your opinion, how has the nominee overcome these obstacles or barriers to reach their goals?
3. Highlight any student essay components that you deem significant for the scholarship committee.
4. Share details of student's participation in the Educational Opportunity Program and their community.

### **CERTIFICATION**

By affixing my signature, I do hereby certify that the nominated student meets all the stipulated eligibility criteria for the MEOA Scholarship.

Signature of nominator:	Date:
Print Name:	Title:
Institution/College Access Program:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone Number:	Email:

Nomination packets must be emailed by **Friday, June 7, 2024**. *Incomplete packets **WILL NOT** be reviewed by the committee.*

### **Submission checklist:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Application Form           | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Essays            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signed Consent and Release Form    | <input type="checkbox"/> Most recent transcript     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Nomination Form        | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Aid Award Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominator Letter of Recommendation |   |

**Send all materials to:**  
[Suamy.Ventura@umb.edu](mailto:Suamy.Ventura@umb.edu)