



MADISON & LILA SELF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SELF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION | Spring 2025

The Madison and Lila Self Memorial Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship that recognizes outstanding seniors from the University of Kansas who will be transitioning into their first year of a master's or doctoral degree program at KU in the fall semester. This scholarship award provides each recipient with \$10,000 for their first year, with half payable to the student at the beginning of the first semester of enrollment in a graduate program (fall/\$5,000), and half payable at the beginning of the second semester of enrollment (spring/\$5,000).

In addition to funding, Self Memorial Scholars have access to a \$1,000 professional development award and participation in a Scholar Development Program. The Scholar Development Program is a distinguishing feature of the Self Memorial Scholarship. Madison and Lila Self intended for the program to orient Scholars and enhance their vision of potential professional careers. This program provides general education and training in career development, communication, and leadership to assist Scholars in their preparation for future leadership roles, complementing the specialized education and training provided in their graduate program. Each Scholar, by accepting the scholarship award, recognizes the benefits of the Scholar Development Program and makes a commitment to participate. The program time commitment is approximately 30 hours per academic year (fall and spring semesters), plus any required preparation. To continue to hold the Self Memorial Scholarship, a Scholar must make satisfactory progress towards their degree, remain in good academic standing, and be an active participant in the Scholar Development Program.

Each Scholar who is selected must have demonstrated success as an undergraduate student and potential for success in graduate education. Self Memorial Scholars are selected because they have shown achievement in leadership and scholarship, and possess “the ability to envision and attain goals that require exceptional energy and tenacity.” Interest in lifelong learning, professional development, and joining a cohort of interdisciplinary graduate students is essential for a Self Memorial Scholar.

The University of Kansas
Madison and Lila Self Graduate Programs
selfscholar@ku.edu
785-864-7249

ELIGIBILITY

In order to become a Self Memorial Scholar for the **2025-2026** academic year, students must meet the following criteria at the time of scholarship application. The application portal will open Monday, February 17, 2025. **The application deadline is Monday, March 3, 2025, at noon.**

- Has been admitted to a master's or doctoral degree program at the University of Kansas (as confirmed by graduate studies application and letter of admission)
- Earned or will earn first bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas during the 2024-2025 academic year (includes fall, spring, and summer semester)
- Will be enrolled as a full-time graduate student during the scholarship year (fall 2025 and spring 2026)
- Will be in the first year of graduate study when Self Memorial Scholarship funding begins (fall 2025)
- Ability to attend mandatory, in-person Scholar Development Programs in Lawrence, Kansas during the fall 2025 and spring 2026 semesters (One-day sessions prior to each semester and follow-up two hour workshops approximately twice during each semester.)
- Domestic and international students are eligible

The following students are ineligible for the Self Memorial Scholarship:

- Students entering graduate programs that do not require a graduate studies application and letter of admission
- Students exclusively enrolled in graduate credits at time of application (spring 2025)
- Students admitted as non-degree seeking graduate students
- Students solely pursuing a graduate certificate program
- Students enrolled part-time in a graduate degree
- Students who have received and accepted the KU Self Graduate Fellowship
- Students who are unable to attend the mandatory, in-person Scholar Development Programs in Lawrence, Kansas

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Submission

Students should review the requirements and mission of the program. Contact Self Graduate Programs staff with questions early in the preparation process to ensure eligibility. Students who meet all eligibility requirements and match the Self Memorial Scholar profile are encouraged to apply. Eligible students will complete the application using the online portal. The application is available through the Self Graduate Programs website, under the Self Memorial Scholarship "Scholarship Application" link. A complete submission includes the following materials: updated resume (PDF), scholarship personal statement (PDF), and a recommendation form (completed separately by a KU faculty or staff member). Students will receive an email notification from the portal when the application and recommendation have been submitted.

TIMELINE

It is important that students meet various deadlines in order to be considered for a Self Memorial Scholarship. The following serves as a suggested timeline for prospective Self Memorial Scholarship applicants.

September-November

- Check with chosen academic department to confirm graduate school application deadlines and required information
- Identify good sources for recommendations
- Update resume

December-January

- Submit graduate school application by KU deadlines
- Confirm with chosen academic department that the graduate school application is complete and all supporting materials have been received
- Receive graduate admissions decision

February

- Gain admission to a full-time, degree-seeking graduate program at KU
- Review the Self Memorial Scholarship website for information
- Review the Self Memorial Scholar profile
- Ensure eligibility and prepare scholarship application materials
- **Monday, February 17, 2025: Scholarship application portal opens online**

March

- Confirm with your selected KU faculty or staff member completion of Recommendation Form
- **Monday, March 3, 2025, at noon: Application deadline**
- **Confirm a KU faculty or staff member to complete a Recommendation Form on your behalf by March 10, 2025**
- Mid-March: Committee reviews scholarship applications

April

- Committee makes final scholarship offer decisions
- Students are notified by email of the committee's decision
- If awarded, **students must formally accept or decline the scholarship by the April 15 deadline**

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the Self Memorial Scholarship application form online
2. Provide an updated resume (PDF attachment)
3. Provide Self Memorial Scholarship personal statement (PDF attachment—see requirements below)
4. Recommendation from a KU faculty or staff member (Recommender will receive a separate link to the recommendation form)

Resume

The resume should highlight experiences and significant achievements from work, school, volunteer projects, and extracurricular activities. Include awards, honors, memberships, positions held, and research experiences.

Self Memorial Scholar Personal Statement

Before beginning, review the Self Memorial Scholarship website and the “Self Memorial Scholar Profile” below. We recognize that this is a financial opportunity; however, this is your opportunity to demonstrate why you want to continue your education at the University of Kansas and become a Self Memorial Scholar.

Self Memorial Scholar Profile

The ideal scholarship candidate will have demonstrated their success as an undergraduate student and communicated their potential for success in graduate education. Self Memorial Scholars are selected due to their achievement in leadership and scholarship. They should possess “the ability to envision and attain goals that require exceptional energy and tenacity.” The ideal candidate is interested in personal development and lifelong learning and is committed to participation in the Scholar Development Program.

The personal statement should be one to two pages, in 12-point font, and double-spaced. Your personal statement must address the following points:

- Highlight your successes and challenges as an undergraduate student at KU and communicate your potential for success as a graduate student.
- Why have you decided to continue your education at KU as a graduate student?
- What are your long-term goals and how do these match with the Self Memorial Scholarship?
- Provide evidence of how you have exemplified energy and tenacity to attain your long-term goals.
- What is your commitment to lifelong learning?
- What do you hope to gain from the Scholar Development Program?

Recommendation Form

Applications will include a completed recommendation form (separate from letters of recommendation for graduate school application). The recommendation form must be completed by a KU faculty or staff who can speak to your achievement in scholarship and leadership. As a student admitted into a graduate program at KU, you have demonstrated your potential as a graduate student. This recommendation should address your match to the Self Memorial Scholar Profile.

Instructions for Recommendation

The KU faculty or staff recommender will receive a link to complete the recommendation form after the student has submitted the application. There is not an option to upload a letter of recommendation. The below questions will be included in the recommendation form.

1. Briefly explain your relationship with the applicant:
 - a. How long have you known the applicant?
 - b. In what capacity have you interacted with the applicant?
 - c. How would you compare this student to others? Provide a rationale for comparison.
2. Provide an assessment of the applicant's match to the Self Memorial Scholar profile:
 - a. Achievement in leadership and scholarship as an undergraduate student
 - b. Ability to and evidence of envisioning and attaining goals
 - c. Commitment to personal development and lifelong learning
 - d. Potential for success in graduate education
3. Provide an overall recommendation:
 - a. Based on your interactions, would you award this student a Self Memorial Scholarship?