

KU MADISON & LILA SELF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The University of Kansas

Self Memorial Scholarship Information | Spring 2022

ABOUT THE SELF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

[Note: The Self Memorial Scholarship is a separate award from the Self Graduate Fellowship.]

The Madison and Lila Self Memorial Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship that recognizes outstanding undergraduates 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 the first year in a graduate program, with half deposited into the student's account at the beginning of the fall semester of enrollment (\$5,000) and the other half at the beginning of the spring semester of enrollment (\$5,000). This scholarship is applied directly to the student's tuition and fees bill.

In addition to funding, Self Memorial Scholars also participate 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 prepare for future leadership roles, complementing the specialized education and training provided in their graduate program. Each Scholar, by accepting the scholarship award, recognize the benefits of the Scholar Development Program and agrees 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.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to become a Self Memorial Scholar for the **2022-2023** academic year, students must meet the following criteria at the time of scholarship application (**deadline is Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at noon**).

- Have 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 2021-2022 academic year (includes fall, spring, and summer semester)
- Will be enrolled as a full-time graduate student during the scholarship year (fall 2022 and spring 2023)
- Will be in the first year of graduate study when Self Memorial Scholarship funding begins (fall 2022)
- Domestic and international students are eligible
- Ability to attend approximately 10 mandatory, in-person Scholar Development Programs in Lawrence, Kansas during the fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters

The following students are ineligible for the Self Memorial Scholarship:

- Programs that do not require a graduate studies application and letter of admission
- 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 KU funded graduate fellowship support including, but not limited to, the Bernadette-Gray Little Graduate Fellowship, University Graduate Fellowship, Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowship, and Self Graduate Fellowship
- Students who are unable to attend the mandatory, in-person Scholar Development Programs

TIMELINE

It is important that students meet deadlines in order to be considered for a Self Memorial Scholarship.

September-November

- Check with chosen academic department to confirm graduate school application deadlines and required information.
- Identify sources for letters of recommendation.
- 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.

February 7, 2022: Scholarship application portal opens online

March

Submit materials by the application deadline: **Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at noon**

End of 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 29 deadline.

April 29: Latest deadline for student acceptance of the offer.

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, scholarship personal statement, and letter of recommendation (saved and uploaded as PDFs).

The Self Memorial Scholarship application portal will open **February 7, 2022** and remain open until the deadline of **March 23, 2022 at noon**. Once the student has completed the application and the letter of recommendation is submitted, the scholarship application is complete.

Students will receive notification from the portal when a letter of recommendation has been submitted.

Selection

The selection committee will review all applications after the deadline and make final decisions early in April. Students will be notified by email of the selection committee's decision.

If awarded, students must formally accept or decline the scholarship before the decision deadline of **April 29, 2022**. All students are asked to communicate intent to accept or decline the scholarship as soon as possible, as this may affect other applicant offers.

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. Provide one letter of recommendation (writer will be sent online portal to submit PDF letter electronically)
5. Complete waiver form
6. Submit the application 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. *The personal statement is critical to your success in the Self Memorial Scholarship selection process.* 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 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, 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?
- What is your commitment to lifelong learning? What do you hope to gain from the Scholar Development Program?

Letter of Recommendation

Students are required to submit a letter of recommendation that is specific to the Self Memorial Scholarship (separate from letters of recommendation for graduate school application). The letter of recommendation can be from any preferred source 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 letter of recommendation should address your match to the Self Memorial Scholar Profile.

Instructions for Recommendation Letter Writers

Please focus this letter on the following. Quality is more important than letter length.

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 your 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 envision and attain goals
 - c. interest in personal development and lifelong learning
 - d. potential for success in graduate education
3. Provide an overall recommendation:
 - a. Based on your interactions, why would you award this student a Self Memorial Scholarship?

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