



## Leo W. Seal, Jr. Scholarship Guidelines

### Purpose

The Leo W. Seal, Jr. Scholarship is established to assist children or wards of associates of a subsidiary of Hancock Whitney Corporation (HWC) in obtaining a college degree from a fully accredited two-year or four-year college or university.

### Award

Scholarship award amounts will be \$10,000 (\$2,500 annually for up to four years). This amount will be paid directly to the college or university in which the student is enrolled. One-half of the annual allocation (\$1,250) will be paid in the first semester, and the remaining annual allocation (\$1,250) will be paid in the second semester. In order to receive payments each semester, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0. The student will be responsible for submitting a copy of their grades to the Gulf Coast Community Foundation (GCCF) at the conclusion of each semester.

### Eligibility

The Applicant can be a graduating high school senior, currently enrolled as a college student, or planning to begin college. The Recipient of a scholarship must begin college within six (6) months of receiving the scholarship award. At the time of application deadline, the applicant's parents or legal guardian must be an active associate of a subsidiary of Hancock Whitney Corporation (HWC)\* and must have been employed by HWC for three years from the last date of hire (including rehires). In the case where an HWC associate began their employment with HWC through a merger or acquisition, the HWC associate must have at least three years of seniority service from their last date of hire AND must have been employed by HWC for at least one year after the acquisition/merger date. Proof of guardianship is required. A cumulative high school grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 is required. An ACT score of at least 15 or an SAT score equivalent to at least a 15 ACT score is required for graduating high school students.

\* An applicant whose parent or legal guardian passed away as an active associate within 24 months of the application deadline who met years of service criteria at the time of death will be considered eligible for purposes of the scholarship.

### Application Process

Applications should be completed online by the **applicant** with all additional material/information submitted electronically by the designated deadline. Incomplete applications will not be processed by GCCF or reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. Applications and any additional information cannot be submitted after the deadline.

**The following information and documents will need to be submitted electronically through the GCCF application website:**

- A completed electronic application
- A copy of the applicant's high school transcript or college transcript uploaded electronic document
- A 500 word essay about your interests and hobbies, future plans and reason for applying for the scholarship – this can be an uploaded document or the essay may be typed in the electronic application
- Two to three letters of reference – one from a member of their high school/college faculty and one from an employer or community organization in which the applicant has worked or volunteered – the applicant will provide email addresses during the electronic application process and an email will be sent to the reference, which the recipient reference can upload their letter of reference
- A copy of ACT/SAT scores (for graduating high school seniors.) upload electronic document
- Graduating high school seniors **must** provide an email address for their Counselor in order for their Counselor to complete their section of the electronic application. **This is not required for students who have completed high school and are currently enrolled in college.**

**Before submitting the application, ensure all required documents have been uploaded and confirm all third-party individuals have submitted their information for the application.**

**Questions regarding the Scholarship Application process should be directed to**

Lisa Birmingham at Gulf Coast Community Foundation  
Email: [LBirmingham@mgccf.org](mailto:LBirmingham@mgccf.org)

**Criteria to Evaluate Candidates (weighted equally)**

- Work Ethic
- Financial Need
- Service to the community and leadership skills
- Teacher's recommendations and Counselor's Information
- Academic achievement based on applicant's ACT/SAT results, GPA and teacher's recommendation.

**Announcement of Award**

The award will be determined by members of the Scholarship Committee and will be announced early May of each year.