



Samuel L. Abrams, a Harrisburg businessman, distinguished himself during a lifetime of participation in his community through philanthropic, social and political activities. Born in Lithuania, Mr. Abrams immigrated with his parents to the United States and Harrisburg at the age of three. He attended Harrisburg city schools, graduating from Harrisburg Technical High School in 1922. After obtaining his degree in business administration from Penn State, he joined B. Abrams & Sons, the scrap metal processing firm that his father, brother and he founded. When Mr. Abrams attended Harrisburg Tech, he had taken a commercial curriculum because he had not believed that his family could afford to send him to college. At his graduation, though, when he realized that most of his friends were going to college, he decided that he wanted to go as well. By the time he graduated from Penn State in 1926, he had been instilled with a strong appreciation for the value of a college education.

In 1966, shortly after completing eight years as a member of the board of directors of the Harrisburg School District, Mr. Abrams established the Samuel L. Abrams Foundation to help deserving graduates and faculty members of the Harrisburg school system further their educations and obtain undergraduate and graduate degrees.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Have graduated from one of the following schools: Bishop McDevitt, Camp Hill, Cedar Cliff, Central Dauphin East, Central Dauphin, Cumberland Valley, Harrisburg High, Lower Dauphin, Mechanicsburg Area, Middletown, Red Land, Steelton-Highspire, Susquehanna Township, Susquenita, Harrisburg Academy, Rabbi David L. Silver Yeshiva Academy, or Trinity
2. Have plans to pursue a degree at a post-secondary institution
3. Have a demonstrable financial need

HOW TO APPLY

The application process is online. [Click here](#) to access the online application.

If you are signing back in to complete your application, please [click here](#).

Before accessing the application, be prepared to attach the following items:

1. Other Scholarship Information: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
2. Student Resume: [Click here](#) to download the fill-in Word document that you should complete, save, and attach to your application.
3. FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR): Please attach the report in its entirety. This report must include the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). Please be aware that the SAR is **not** the same as the Summary Report. In addition to the SAR, you may also provide a letter with information you believe will be useful in determining your financial need (e.g., family and student income). Are there extenuating circumstances of which we should be aware? For example, illness in the family, loss of employment, or other relevant information?
4. Personal Essay: In no more than two paragraphs, explain why you believe you need to obtain a post-secondary education and why you have chosen the school you will be attending. **(This requirement is for first time applicants only, or for applicants who have received a foundation scholarship before and are either transferring to another school, or enrolling in another course of study such as graduate school.)**

The following requirements must be mailed. They will not be accepted electronically.

1. **Official Certified** Transcript that includes grades through the most recently completed grading period.
2. If you are still in High School, your guidance counselor must complete and sign the *Guidance Counselor Form*. [Click here](#) to download the form.
3. Student Financial Aid Information. We will need a copy of your **tuition bill** as well as your **financial aid information**.

Often, these two items are listed on a bill together. If they are not listed on the bill together, you will need to submit the items separately.

4. The Foundation may require applicants attending graduate school who have stated that their parents will not be responsible for paying any of their education-related expenses to provide copies of their own and their parents' federal income tax returns for the most recently concluded tax year. You will be notified if these are needed.
5. ***Final certified transcripts, financial aid information and tuition bills may not be available until after the May 31st deadline. You will be required to submit them as soon as they become available. For applicants attending any of the schools in the State System of Higher Education or Penn State, tuition information will not be available until after the schools have set their tuition for the upcoming academic year. That usually occurs shortly after the state budget has been adopted by the legislature and signed by the governor.***

Please do not submit items that have not been requested. Any additional paperwork submitted that has not been requested will be shredded. It is not necessary to mail items that have already been submitted electronically.

It is each applicant's responsibility to provide all of the required information by the May 31st deadline with exceptions made as noted in 5 above. The foundation will send no reminders. Applicants who do not provide the information on time will receive no consideration for a scholarship.

It is your responsibility to ensure that these requirements are received by the deadline. They ***must be received*** by the deadline, ***not postmarked***. Students are encouraged to mail all of these requirements together in one large envelope to:

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
Samuel L. Abrams Foundation
Attn: Thomas Bradley, Scholarship Associate
200 N. 3rd Street, 8th Floor
PO Box 678
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0678

RENEWABILITY

A Samuel L. Abrams Foundation scholarship is a one-time only award. Students are eligible to reapply throughout undergraduate and graduate school. Each year begins a new process and receipt of financial aid from the foundation in prior years is no assurance of receiving financial aid in the future. Preference will be given to reapplicants.

MATCHING AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

AES/PHEAA's PATH Program: Scholarship recipients are eligible to have their awards matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by AES/PHEAA's ***PATH ("Partnerships for Access to Higher Education") Program***. PHEAA may grant matching funds to scholarship recipients who are enrolled in an approved Pennsylvania college or career school as an undergraduate student on at least a half-time basis, who are a Pennsylvania state grant recipient and who demonstrate financial need. Students must also be a resident of Pennsylvania, not in default on any educational loans, maintain academic progress, and not be considered an incarcerated student. The match provides last-dollar support for tuition and fees. ***Scholarship funds used for reimbursement of textbook purchases are not eligible for a PATH Program match.*** The scholarship recipient's information is submitted to PHEAA by TFEC staff. No additional work will be asked of the scholarship recipient. For more information regarding AES/PHEAA, please refer to their website at www.pheaa.org