

Barney Hobbs Memorial Horticulture Scholarship Eligibility, Terms, Criteria, and Judging

Application Deadline March 15, 2025

The Master Gardener Program, sponsored by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, is a volunteer training program whose purpose is to educate the community about gardening and horticultural topics. In keeping with this purpose, the Hamilton County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) awards annually the Barney Hobbs Memorial Horticulture Scholarship. Barney Hobbs was a founding member of the HCMGA who possessed a strong volunteer spirit. Scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 each pay tribute to Mr. Hobbs and his many horticultural accomplishments.

Eligibility Requirements

- Hamilton County (Indiana) resident or child/grandchild of an HCMGA member
- High school senior or full-time undergraduate college student
- Intent to major in horticulture, botany, landscape architecture/design or an agriculture or environmental science that includes a plant-focused component.
- Must be a full-time college student in the fall of 2025. The scholarship cannot be deferred a year.

Terms of Scholarship

- Several scholarships will be awarded on a yearly basis in June and will be paid directly to the recipient's college at the beginning of the school year
- \$3,000 will be awarded for each one-year scholarship, with \$1,500 paid per semester upon verification of proof of full-time enrollment
- Any unused portion of the scholarship award will be returned to the HCMGA scholarship fund at the end of the school year
- Scholarships can be renewed for up to 3 years (or 4 years when enrolled in a

5-year degree program) if the student reapplies and meets the criteria for renewal, as listed below

- Award of scholarships will be without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, or disability
- Award of scholarships will be based on merit only. Demonstration of financial need will not be a determining factor

Criteria for Submission

- A completed application that includes the following:
 - An official high school transcript reflecting a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for high school applicants, OR
 - An official college transcript reflecting a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 and full-time student status (12 credit hours minimum) for college applicants
- An essay of no more than 500 words detailing your reasons for choosing horticulture or a related major, career objectives, and any current or past gardening experiences
- A personal recommendation from either an instructor, counselor, club advisor, church leader, or employer
- Above items must be submitted by 4:30 p.m., **March 15, 2025**, to the Hamilton County Extension Office. *Applications may also be placed in the Extension Office drop box between 4:30 p.m. and midnight on March 15.*

Judging Considerations

- A scholarship committee of the HCMGA will review all applications and select recipients based on the following criteria:
 - Academic performance (25%)

Essay (25%)

Personal recommendation (25%)

Character, personality, and leadership as reflected in school, community, or work activities and awards (25%)

- Applicants may be requested to interview with the scholarship committee

Criteria for Renewal

- A completed renewal application that includes the following:
 - An official college transcript reflecting a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 and full-time student status (minimum of 12 credit hours)

An essay of no more than 500 words outlining what you have accomplished over the past year to further your goals in your chosen field of horticultural study

Renewal applications will be reevaluated each year.

- Above items must be submitted by 4:30 p.m., **March 15, 2025**, to the Hamilton County Extension Office. *Applications may also be placed in the Extension Office drop box between 4:30 p.m. and midnight on March 15.*

Application forms are available at the Hamilton County Extension Office or can be downloaded from the Master Gardener website at <https://hcmga.org/>.

Hamilton County Extension Office

2003 Pleasant Street

Noblesville, IN 46060-3697

(317) 776-0854

Barney Hobbs Memorial Horticulture Scholarship Application
Deadline March 15, 2025

This scholarship is worth \$3,000 per year and can be renewed by submitted an annual application.

Please read each section of the application carefully and fill out completely. Type, or print legibly in ink. Attach any additional pages as necessary. Please do not submit double sided or stapled documents (except for transcripts).

Part I: Personal Information

Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

College ID # (if applicable) _____

Address of College Bursar/Financial Office _____

Name(s) of parent or guardian _____

Parent/Guardian address (if different) _____

Name of school currently attending _____

Name of school attending next year _____

Intended major(s)/minor(s) _____

High school/college/community awards _____

High school/college/community activities _____

Employment _____

Part II: Essay

Attach an essay of no more than 500 words detailing your reasons for choosing horticulture or related major, career objectives, and any current or past gardening experiences.

Part III: Personal Recommendation

Add a letter of recommendation from an instructor, counselor, club advisor, church leader, or employer.

Part IV: Official School Transcript

High school applicants must attach an official high school transcript reflecting a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. College applicants must attach an official college transcript reflecting a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 and full-time student status (12 credit hours minimum). **Be sure to contact your school early to ensure timely receipt of your transcript.**

Certification of Application Information

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and that the essay was composed entirely by me. I realize that this application will not be processed if it is not complete and submitted with ALL required information and in the time period listed below. I hereby give the HCMGA Scholarship Committee permission to use the information provided on this application for public recognition.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Please return your completed application and all supporting materials by 4:30 p.m., March 15, 2025, to the Hamilton County Extension Office:

Hamilton County Extension Office
Attn: Barney Hobbs Scholarship Committee
2003 Pleasant Street
Noblesville, IN 46060-3697

Applications may also be placed in the Extension Office dropbox from 4:30 p.m. to midnight on March 15.