Mortar Board Fellowships For Graduate and Professional Studies

Deadline: Friday, March 27, 2015 at 5:00 pm

Send to the Graduate School, Byrnes 304

Overview:
Mortar Board, Inc. is a national honor society that recognizes students for their achievements in scholarship, leadership and service, provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community.

USC Mortar Board will award one graduate fellowship in the amount of $1,000. One need not be a member of Mortar Board to apply, and all applicants will be equally considered.

To qualify, students must meet the following criteria:
- Current USC graduate student who will be enrolled in Fall 2014 or current undergraduate intending to enroll in USC Graduate School in Fall 2014
- Attended USC for undergraduate studies
- Exemplify the Mortar Board ideals of scholarship, leadership and service
- All applicants must have a minimum cumulative 3.5 GPA

The fellowships may only be applied to graduate study at the University of South Carolina. The recipients will be eligible to hold a graduate assistantship or other financial award in addition to the fellowship. Financial need will only be a criterion when candidates are equally qualified.

Submission Guidelines:
Your application packet should include the following:
1. Mortar Board Fellowship Application.
2. An essay of no more than 1,000 words describing your personal and professional goals. This may include information such as your reasons for pursuing a graduate or professional degree, your community service activities, employment experience and accomplishments not otherwise noted on this application.
3. A list of scholastic honors, awards and extracurricular activities (campus & community) and offices held with corresponding dates for each award, activity or officer position.
4. Two letters of recommendation to support your application. If you have been enrolled in graduate school for at least one semester, at least one letter must be from a graduate faculty member in your current graduate program. The other letter should be from someone who can attest to the quality of your work and can assess your potential for continued success in graduate school. If you are currently an undergraduate planning to enroll in graduate school in the fall, both letters should be from faculty members who can attest to the quality of your work and your potential for success in your intended graduate program. It is strongly recommended that if current undergraduate students know or have worked with a current faculty member in their intended graduate program, that at least one letter be from a member of that program.
5. An essay response (no more than 1,000 words) to ONE of the following:
   a. Mortar Board emphasizes service to the community. Write an essay in which you describe your most important community service and volunteer experiences in college and how they have contributed to your personal growth.
   b. Each year Mortar Board recognizes professors who have exhibited “Excellence in Teaching.” Write an essay in which you describe what “Excellence in Teaching” means to you and the ways a professor has contributed to your University experience.
6. OPTIONAL: Briefly describe how you will finance graduate studies. (This will be a criterion only when candidates are equally qualified.)
7. A current unofficial transcript(s) of academic work
Mortar Board Fellowships For Graduate and Professional Studies

Deadline:  ; Mar    at 5:00 pm

NAME______________________________________ VIP ID#______________

LOCAL ADDRESS____________________________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS____________________________________________________

PERSONAL PHONE #__________________________________________________

Undergraduate Degree(s) earned or expected from USC

DEGREE NAME____________________ DATE______ MAJOR________________

DEGREE NAME____________________ DATE______ MAJOR________________

Current or Intended Graduate Program and Term Admitted or Applied For

PROGRAM____________________ DEGREE_______ TERM____________

I hereby acknowledge that I meet the following criteria:
- Current USC graduate student who will be enrolled in Fall 2014 or current undergraduate intending to enroll in USC Graduate School in Fall 2014
- Attended USC for undergraduate studies
- Exemplify the Mortar Board ideals of scholarship, leadership and service
- All applicants must have a minimum cumulative 3.5 GPA

I VERIFY THAT THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION IS CORRECT, AND I GIVE MORTAR BOARD PERMISSION TO CHECK ITS VALIDITY.

Signature__________________________ Date____________________

**If you have any questions or concerns please contact Michelle Chapman at chapmamj@email.sc.edu. Please ensure that you have thoroughly read the application instructions. Also note that no late applications will be accepted! Thank you!**