

Qualified Institutions and Level of Study

- Award may be used at any accredited two-/four-year college or university in the U.S., for any undergraduate study.

Application Requirements

- U.S. Citizen, all 50 states
- Applicant should demonstrate:
 - Motivation, character, leadership, service to others, and academic achievement (if previously awarded).
- Required application components:
 - Three essays.
 - Signed and dated application.
 - Proof of incarceration that shows current charges, criminal history, and length of sentence
- Funding priorities:
 - In light of recidivism data and societal impact, our funding priorities follow: violent offenders, property offenders, drug offenders, sex offenders, those serving a death sentence or a life sentence without the possibility of parole or release.
- Additional information:
 - Previous applicants or awardees are encouraged to reapply. Previous awardees must supply grade verification showing a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or above in the courses we funded.

Application Instructions

1. Fully complete the application, both pages, and sign where indicated.
2. Compose only three of five essays as indicated on Page 3 of the application.
3. Photocopy court documents (Judgment and Sentence) that show your controlling charges, criminal history, and dates of release. Due to the difficulties of obtaining photocopies in prison, you may send original court documents along with a note indicating their return.
4. Compile all the above documents and submit them to the above address, so they **arrive** at our office by the deadline provided above.

Course Selection and Funding Requests

The PSF is dedicated to empowering incarcerated students who are serious about pursuing their educational aspirations. While the PSF does not have strict guidelines or cost limitations for request amounts, you should keep in mind the decision to grant scholarship funding is at times an economic one. Thus if your request is considered excessive, you will most likely not receive funding. Further, first-time applicants should initially apply for only **one** course. After you complete the course, we will consider future funding requests provided that you receive a cumulative 3.5 GPA in the courses we funded.

Tips for Success

As the only organization of its kind in the U.S., competition is extremely competitive. We do not have sufficient funds to help everybody and must choose from those that submit the highest quality and most compelling essays. The result is that even very qualified candidates may not receive funding. Therefore, the successful candidate will present a well-articulated and coherent plan for the use of scholarship funds to further his or her educational goals. This means that you will need to thoroughly research your plan to know which college/university you would like to attend, the courses and associated costs, and other relevant information. Then really shine through by telling us about yourself in your essays.

Application Due Dates

The Dirk Van Velzen Scholarships will be judged quarterly at the end of March, June, September and December. New applications and questions will be prepared for each quarter. Be certain you have the current application and make sure it physically arrives at our office before the end of the quarter for which you are applying, postmark notwithstanding.

Award Notification

The awardees of the 2010 Dirk Van Velzen Scholarship will be notified by mail. Funds will be paid directly to the college/university; any unused portions shall be returned to the PSF. Awardees' personal information may be disseminated in organizational communication, including but not limited to press releases, website posting, blogs, marketing material and annual reports.

Please Print Clearly or Type

All information is required.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.

General Information**Application Checklist**

Last name:		First:		<input type="checkbox"/> Signed application <input type="checkbox"/> Three essays <input type="checkbox"/> Court documents or Judgment and Sentence that show current charges and criminal history <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed on time
Middle initial:	Birth date:	Sex:		
Institution:				
Inmate number:				
Mailing address:				
City:	State:	Zip:		

Permanent Home Address (if applicable)

Mailing address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Home phone:		

Heritage Information**Where did you hear about the scholarship?**

<i>Circle all that apply</i>	<i>Please Specify</i>
African American	Internet:
American Indian	Newspaper/magazine:
Asian	Friend:
Other (<i>please specify</i>): _____	Other (<i>explain</i>):
Hispanic	
Pacific Islander	
White	

School Information

Name of college/university you will attend:	
School's address:	
School's phone number:	
Last year of school completed:	Grade Point Average:
Major (if applicable):	
Which course do you wish to take:	
Cost of course:	Number of credits:
Cost of textbooks:	

Personal Information

List any extracurricular activities you have been involved with:

List any awards or honors you have received:

List the charges that have led you to your incarceration:

Max release date:

Expected release date:

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List your hometown newspapers' names and fax numbers so we can notify them of your award if you win:

Essay Requirement:

Select only three of the five topics listed below, and submit an essay for each one. This is your chance to speak to us, and our chance to listen as you tell us about yourself, your tastes, and your ambitions. Play, analyze (don't agonize), create, compose—let us hear the result of your thinking about something that interests you, in a voice that is yours alone. Brevity is the soul of wit; thus, as you compose these essays, make sure that all three essays together take up no more than six pages of double-spaced type. You'll have to figure out how many pages this would be if you print.

1. What would you do if you could spend the entire day with any historical figure that lived between 500 A.D. and 1900 A.D.?
2. "Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust," wrote Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his "Letter from Birmingham Jail." We want to hear your thoughts on justice as it relates to this "human personality" that Dr. King mentions.
3. Read *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* and describe to us the view you see over the handlebars of your motorcycle.
4. Why now? Why are you pursuing higher education?
5. If you had live without one of your senses, which one would it be, and why?

Signature

My signature on the line below indicates that I have read and understand the eligibility requirements of the Dirk Van Velzen Scholarship, and that the above supplied information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also fully understand that failure to provide complete and accurate information, or including misleading information, will be grounds for disqualification. All submitted application material becomes the property of the Prison Scholar Fund and will not be returned or forwarded elsewhere (only court documents may be returned if you are unable to copy them). However, awardees' personal information may be disseminated in organizational communication, including but not limited to press releases, website postings, blogs, marketing material, and annual reports to increase public awareness of prisoner education. Do not send us photos or original works of art or anything of value that will not be returned to you. At our discretion, application material may be evaluated by independent assessors. We urge you to make and keep a copy of this application for your records.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

