



## 2010-11 Hixson Opportunity Award Application *Instructions*

The University of Kansas  
Office of Student Financial Aid  
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The Hixson Opportunity Award was established to provide the opportunity for Kansas residents to attend the University of Kansas who would otherwise not be able to because of financial restrictions or other personal hardships. There will be ten \$5,000 scholarships awarded for the 2010-11 academic year, renewable for up to four years.

### Eligibility Criteria

1. Students must have faced personal challenges and/or financial hardship.
2. Students must be residents of Kansas and current high school seniors.
3. Students must be admissible to the University of Kansas by
  - Achieving an ACT score of 21 or above, or an SAT score of 980 or above, or
  - Earning at least a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0-point scale in the Kansas Board of Regents curriculum, or
  - Ranking in the top one-third of their high-school class.
4. Students must be entering freshmen for the Fall 2010 term at KU.
5. Students must demonstrate financial eligibility as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
6. Students whose parent(s)/guardian(s) did not earn a 4-year college degree will receive priority consideration (first generation).

### Application Procedure

1. Complete, sign and mail the application Cover Page and all required documents by **February 1, 2010**.
2. Complete the University of Kansas admissions process at [www.admissions.ku.edu](http://www.admissions.ku.edu) by **February 1, 2010**.
3. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) **preferably by February 1, 2010 but no later than March 1, 2010**.
  - If you are unable to use completed income tax information, FAFSA allows you to estimate income and submit corrections, if needed, after taxes are filed.
4. Priority consideration will be given to applicants who have completed all financial aid requirements on their To Do List on their KU Enroll & Pay account. Refer to your admission letter for instructions on how to access this system.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

### Required Documents

1. Application Cover Page.
2. An official high school transcript, if not already submitted with your KU Admissions Application.
3. A letter of recommendation from your guidance counselor, teacher or a community leader.
  - This letter should communicate the personal challenges and/or financial hardship you have faced and your potential to succeed at the University of Kansas.
4. A 1-2 page personal statement. Be specific about the personal challenges and/or financial hardship you have faced, your potential to succeed at the University of Kansas, and your status as a first-generation student for priority consideration.

Applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Committee based on completion of application requirements. Applications and all required documents are due February 1, 2010. Applications postmarked after this deadline will not receive consideration for this scholarship. Scholarship recipients will be notified by **April 1, 2010**.

### Contact Information

If you have questions about the application process, please contact Sara Vancil, Assistant Director, Office of Student Financial Aid, at 785-864-5494 or via email at [svancil@ku.edu](mailto:svancil@ku.edu).

# Hixson Opportunity Award

What do current scholars have to say about the Hixson Scholars Program?



"Thanks to Ms. Hixson, not only will I have less of a financial burden to worry about during my post-collegiate years, but she has also given me the opportunity to meet many new people, including fellow Hixson Scholars, friends, and faculty who have all made my experience here at the University of Kansas so much more memorable." —Connor Stanton

"Just by receiving the scholarship, I have been able to participate in many helpful programs such as HAWK Link and Supportive Educational Services, both of which provide free tutoring and have many wonderful advisors." —Kimberly Moore

For many of the great successes of the world, the background they came from was their great challenge. I'm trying to find those people. Those who may not have the highest grade point or a perfect family background, but who can be successful. These are the ones who will lend the helping hands in the future.  
- Christina Hixson -



The Hixson Opportunity Award was established to provide the opportunity for students to attend the University of Kansas who otherwise would not be able to attend.



Scholars meet with Ms. Hixson at fall reception



Application Deadline: February 1



You are ready to go to college and have chosen the University of Kansas. Maybe you are the child of a parent who did not go to college, you do not think you can afford to go to KU, or you have other obstacles in your path to a college education. If so, there is a scholarship program just for you. It will help you understand how to make the transition from high school to college, provide a scholarship for four years, and help you make life-long connections with faculty and staff.

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  - Earning at least a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0-point scale in the Kansas Board of Regents curriculum, or
  - Ranking in the top one-third of their high school class.
4. Students must be entering freshmen for the upcoming fall term at KU.
5. Students must demonstrate financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
6. Students whose parent(s) did not earn a 4-year college degree will receive priority consideration (first generation).

## Application Procedures

Hixson Opportunity Award applications will be available online at [www.scholarships.ku.edu/hixson.shtml](http://www.scholarships.ku.edu/hixson.shtml) or at your high school counselor's office.

1. Submit the Hixson Opportunity Award application by February 1. Each application should include:
  - The application cover page.
  - An official high school transcript.
  - A list of leadership activities.
  - A letter of recommendation from your guidance counselor, teacher, or community leader.
2. Write an essay describing your potential to succeed and any personal challenges you faced that may hinder achieving these goals.
3. Complete the University of Kansas admission application process for the upcoming fall term at [www.admissions.ku.edu](http://www.admissions.ku.edu) by February 1.
4. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsaed.gov](http://www.fafsaed.gov) by March 1 each year.
  - If you are unable to use completed income tax information, the FAFSA allows you to estimate income and submit corrections, if needed, after taxes are filed.

## Recipient Expectations

The goal of the Hixson Opportunity Award is to engage students in existing programs on campus to help them navigate their college experience, including:

- Student support programs such as HAWK Link and Supportive Educational Services (SES)
- Hixson Scholars Seminar
- Hixson Scholars Mentors
- Community Service



Recipients also have the opportunity to participate in specialized programs:

- Academic Success Seminars
- Faculty & Staff Support Network
- Transitions Program
- Tutoring, Mentoring and Academic Advising

## Award Information

- Awards are available to entering freshmen who are Kansas residents and wish to study any major offered at the University of Kansas.
- Awards are \$5000 per year, renewable for a total of four years.
- Ten new award recipients will be selected per year.
- Recipients will be announced by April 1 of each year.

