



## George V. Weisdack Memorial Scholarship Guidelines and Procedures

### Overview

The George V. Weisdack Memorial Scholarship (Weisdack Scholarship) was established in 2011 by James W. Boyd, Chairman of John T. Boyd Company and the Pittsburgh Section of SME (SME Pittsburgh) for promising college students to continue their education in mining engineering, mineral engineering and mineral, ore and coal processing in memory of George V. Weisdack. George Weisdack had a distinguished career as a mining consultant principally in the area of coal mining. He joined John T. Boyd Company in 1980 after coal company employment and was elected vice president in 1989. He worked extensively in the US coal industry focusing primarily on underground mining. However, he also had extensive international experience in Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Republic of South Africa and Ukraine. George was active in SME Pittsburgh and National SME. He was a Distinguished Member of SME Pittsburgh and was nominated for National Distinguished Member.

The Weisdack Scholarship is awarded annually to a student pursuing an undergraduate degree in mining engineering, mineral engineering and mineral, ore and coal processing. Applicants must have completed their freshman year of studies at the time of application and have elected or be enrolled in course work leading to a degree in the above disciplines. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is required.

### Timeline

The Weisdack Scholarship adheres to the following timeline:

Date	Task
August 15-October 15	Applications accepted
October 1	Application initiation deadline – ( <b>Note:</b> All applications should be initiated by this date to allow plenty of time for receipt of letters of recommendation prior to the October 15 deadline.)
October 15	Application deadline
December 1	Selection deadline
December 15	Applicant notification deadline
January 15	Check mailed to successful applicant department head
SME Annual Conference & Expo	Recipient recognized at SME Foundation Dinner; recipient will also be recognized at the Joint SME/PCMIA Meeting held annually in late October in the Pittsburgh Region.

### Applicant Qualifications

Weisdack Scholarship applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a U.S. citizen at the time of application.
2. Completed at least one year of undergraduate studies with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
3. Maintained good standing as an SME student member or have become an SME student member for this scholarship application.
4. Attending a college or university of his or her choice that provides curriculum (ABET accredited) in mining engineering, minerals engineering, mineral, ore and coal processing leading to a B.S. degree in these fields.
5. Pursuing or having elected to pursue an undergraduate degree in mining engineering, mineral engineering and mineral, ore and coal processing. Junior and senior level applicants will receive preferential standing. Preference will also

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be given to those applicants attending accredited programs in colleges and universities located within the boundaries of SME Pittsburgh or whose legal residence is within the boundaries of SME Pittsburgh regardless of accredited program location elsewhere in the U.S. Part-time students and students in co-operative programs are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

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**Application Requirements**

Weisdack Scholarship applications must be submitted online via SME's Scholarship portal. The online application requires the following information:

1. Demographic and contact information.
  2. Two letters of reference from faculty members, industry representatives, previous or current employer, and others familiar with the candidate's academic and professional interests.
  3. Résumé detailing past education and work experience.
  4. Copy of most recent transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
  5. Anticipated expenses/income for the current academic year to demonstrate a need for financial assistance to complete the academic program he or she is pursuing. Preference will be given to applicants on a demonstrated needs basis and to applicants who are not currently receiving scholarships from other SME entities.
  6. Short statement (one page) describing interest in a career in mining engineering or minerals, ore and coal processing.
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**Award**

One Weisdack Scholarship will be awarded for each academic year. The amount of the Weisdack Scholarship is determined annually and will be 5% of the three year rolling fund balance, or a minimum of \$2,000. In no event shall the principal of the fund be used to fund the scholarship. Should the amount of the earnings be less than the minimum scholarship amount, the SME Pittsburgh will have the option of donating additional funds or not awarding a scholarship that year.

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**Recipient Selection**

Selection of scholarship recipients is at the discretion of the SME Foundation Scholarship Committee, whose members are appointed by the SME Foundation Nominating Committee and approved by the SME Foundation Executive Committee. Final approval of all selections will be made by a committee constituted for this purpose by the SME Pittsburgh section.

Weisdack Scholarship recipients are eligible for a second year of funding. Recipients are required to submit the following information by July 1 following their Sophomore or Junior year for consideration for Junior or Senior year funding to [scholarships@smenet.org](mailto:scholarships@smenet.org):

- a. Copy of most recent transcript.
- b. A letter from faculty confirming that the student continues to be enrolled, is active in the program, and is in good academic standing.
- c. An updated statement describing work and educational experiences since the receipt of the first scholarship.
- d. A demonstration of the need for continuing financial aid.

Weisdack Scholarship renewal is subject to approval by the SME Foundation Scholarship Committee, with final approval by a committee constituted for this purpose by the SME Pittsburgh section.

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**Questions**

Questions may be directed to [scholarships@smenet.org](mailto:scholarships@smenet.org) or 303-948-4208.

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