

MFDA Scholarship Application Process & Requirements – 2026

For more than 90 years, the Maine Funeral Directors Association has been a critical resource for funeral practitioners and their staff throughout the entire state of Maine. As the cornerstone of the professional community, MFDA provides a forum to share expertise and experience, develop the highest standards of ethical service, and create networking opportunities for service providers and all members of our profession. MFDA promotes continuing education for Maines Funeral Directors and supports individuals going into the profession with a yearly **\$2,000 scholarship**. This scholarship is intended to support individuals who demonstrate commitment to funeral service in Maine and the potential to contribute meaningfully to the profession. We encourage all individuals enrolled in a funeral service education program to apply. Preference will be given to students seeking funeral service licensure in Maine.

Application process:

1. Applications will **ONLY** be accepted **between July 1st and August 1st**. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
2. Applications **MUST** be emailed as a single pdf document to **MFDA Support Staff AND MFDA Scholarship Committee Chair**. If the Applicant does not receive an acknowledgment by August 2nd, they should contact the **MFDA Support Staff AND MFDA Scholarship Committee Chair**.
3. The **Scholarship Committee** will review the applications and make their selection based on the **Required Application Content** as described below.
4. The **MFDA Board of Directors** will give final approval to the award recipient at the fall Board meeting.
5. The MFDA Scholarship Awardee will be announced at the **MFDA Annual Meeting**.

Scholarship recipients must submit official passing grade transcripts for the fall semester to **MFDA Support Staff** no later than January 15th. If transcripts are not received by the deadline, the scholarship funds will be retained and returned to the pool for future candidates. **Required Application Content (Keep each section to 300 words or less):**

- **Applicant's Contact Information:** Name, Address, Phone, Email, Current Place of Employment
- **Experience/Employment – Scoring: 25 Points**
What has been your experience in funeral service (if any), and how your prior work experience, in or out of funeral service, can contribute to your career as a funeral professional and to the Maine Funeral Directors Association?
- **Education – Scoring: 15 Points**
Describe your educational experiences, your current education status and your latest grade point average.
- **Desire to be In Funeral Service – Scoring: 25 Points**
A career in Funeral Service carries profound responsibility as families are entrusting in you to take care of their loved one. during one of the most difficult times in their life. Describe what draws you to funeral service, why you want to become a funeral director and how you see yourself making a meaningful impact on the families and communities you serve.
- **Community Involvement – Scoring: 25 Points**
One of the cornerstones of funeral service is the involvement with the communities they serve. Many of us in funeral service belong to fraternal groups, organizations, or clubs within their community. It is here that relationships are established, and trust is developed, ultimately helping with the funeral home's success. Please share your involvement and aspirations for community organizations and events. Please indicate what organizations you have participated in, are currently participating in, and any future memberships you aspire to join. Describe how you might see this involvement beneficial to the families you will serve and the firm's overall success to which you are employed.
- **Recommendation/References – Scoring: 10 Points**
Applicants must submit at least one formal letter of recommendation and/or reference. The letter should speak to your character, work ethic, and suitability for a career in funeral service. Personal references (family members or close friends) are not accepted. Reference lists alone are not a substitute for a letter of recommendation.
- **Bonus - Professional Insight & Outlook – Scoring: 10 Points** This section invites you to share your broader perspective on the profession. Where do you see funeral service heading in the future, and how do you see yourself contributing to its evolution? Your response should reflect a practical understanding of the profession, a clear commitment to service, and a realistic outlook on the challenges and opportunities ahead.