

# Polish American Congress of Arizona

2828 West Country Gables Drive

Phoenix, Arizona 85053

[www.pacarizona.org](http://www.pacarizona.org)



October 1st, 2024

Dear Members,

As an organization which strives to promote civic, cultural, and educational programs designed to increase Polish-American involvement and accomplishments in our community, PAC of Arizona is pleased to announce its 2024 scholarship for all eligible candidates. As always, we take great pride in awarding scholarships to exemplary students every year.

As of October 1st, 2024, we are now accepting scholarship applications for the 2024/2025 academic year. All prospective students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Attached to this letter you will find the application, eligibility requirements, and additional details for the scholarship. These documents can also be accessed on our website:

<https://www.pacarizona.org/scholarship>

We look forward to reviewing your applications and celebrating our community's incredible accomplishments. The deadline to apply is *strictly* October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Lasek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

*Kevin Lasek*

*Director of Learning and Education*

*Polish American Congress of Arizona*

*E-mail: [info@pacarizona.org](mailto:info@pacarizona.org)*



## Polish American Congress of Arizona Scholarship

### Eligibility

To be eligible for scholarship consideration, you must:

- Yourself be, or have at least one parent who is, of Polish descent
- Have been an active member of PAC for at least one year
  - Active means:
    - Have attended PAC monthly meetings
    - Have participated in PAC events (e.g., Annual Heritage Ball, Picnic)
    - Have participated in PAC-affiliated events (e.g., building of PAC altar for Corpus Christi).
- Be a full-time student with a grade point average (GPA) of:
  - 3.5 or above if you are in an undergraduate or trade school program
  - 2.5 or above if you are in a graduate program

### Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted with **all** required documents **at the time of submission**. You must enclose all the following:

- A fully completed scholarship application form
- Proof of enrollment for Fall Semester 2024—this can be in the form of class schedule dated **October 1st, 2024**, or later
- A copy of your most recent transcript (it can be an unofficial copy)
- A signed letter of recommendation **which is dated no earlier than six months before the application deadline** and provides contact information of the referee. Applications with a letter of recommendation dated more than six months before the deadline will be disqualified
- An essay on a chosen topic (prompts provided below)
- An addendum (optional)



## **Essay Requirements**

Your essay must:

- Be in PDF format, if sending in electronically
- Be single-sided, stapled, if sending in by mail
- Have a cover letter including your name and prompt topic (provided below)
- Be 3-4 pages in length, double spaced, in Times New Roman, 12-point font. The title page /cover letter and any additional addendum items (e.g., bibliography) do not count toward the required minimum page length
- Explicitly respond to a chosen prompt (provided below)

## **Essay Prompts**

Respond to one of the following prompts:

1. 2024 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Maria Skłodowska-Curie, the renowned Polish scientist who, through her discovery of the elements of Polonium and Radium, led to the development of modern X-ray imaging and cancer treatments. Maria is not only the first woman to become a Nobel laureate, but she is also the only person to receive a Nobel prize in two scientific fields (physics and chemistry). If your intended field of study is in S.T.E.M. (science, technology, mathematics, engineering), expound on the life and work of Maria Skłodowska-Curie and describe how her accomplishments may inspire young Polish-Americans in their own academic, professional, and personal pursuits.
2. If your intended field of study is aligned with the humanities (i.e., *not* S.T.E.M.), choose a prominent (historical or contemporary) Polish individual, event, cultural element, or personal experience related to Poland which is significant to you and discuss how its importance influences your academic prospects. Be sure to provide a brief summary of your chosen topic.
3. Envision where you see yourself in 5-10 years. What personal or professional goals do you aim to accomplish by then? Describe how you plan to contribute to the Polish community and/or how you see yourself keeping the flame of your Polish background alive. Provide concrete examples of your involvement, rather than simply expressing pride in your Polish heritage.
4. Some applicants experience personal hardships or unique experiences which they believe are significant factors to their sense of self. If you think this may be you, provide some details and discuss how your Polish background has positively influenced those journeys.

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## **Submission Guidelines**

If you are submitting your application electronically, email all documents in the required (PDF) format to:

[info@pacarizona.org](mailto:info@pacarizona.org).

If you are submitting your application by mail, send all documents in the required format to:

Polish American Congress of Arizona  
2828 West Country Gables Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85053

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS IS **OCTOBER 31, 2024**  
THIS IS A STRICT DEADLINE AND NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED  
AFTER **OCTOBER 31, 2024****

**MAILED-IN APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THEIR POSTMARK DATE**