



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – FALL 2019

*Applicant must be either a resident of or
attend school in Northern California*

The Northern California Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) is seeking applicants for scholarship awards of \$1,000 – \$5,000 each. COMTO is a national, multi-ethnic organization founded in 1971 to advocate for the transportation careers and transportation needs of minorities. COMTO's vision is to be the primary voice in the transportation industry for people, businesses, and communities of color, with a focus on equal access, advancement, and sustainable results. COMTO also advocates for minority students to have access to opportunities to learn about careers in the transportation industry through scholarship programs, internships and mentoring.

Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, **November 8, 2019**. (Applications that are postmarked by November 8, 2019, but not delivered by Wednesday, November 13, 2019 will not be considered.)

ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

1. **U. S. citizens currently enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program at an accredited college or university.** Graduate students and students already in possession of an undergraduate degree are not eligible. Because COMTO advocates for the accessibility and advancement of minorities in transportation, priority will be given to applicants with *majors that are applicable to the transportation industry. Applicants must be able to explain their short and long-range professional goals in the transportation industry in an essay (see *Career Interest Essay* requirement, page 3).

***What Majors support the Transportation Industry?**

Transportation professionals work in a broad range of areas that generally aim to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Majors that support the transportation industry include the following:

- Engineering (i.e. Civil/ Construction, Environmental, Mechanical, and Electrical)
- Social sciences (i.e. Planning, Economics, Geography, and Political Science)
- Professional (i.e. Business, Law, Policy, Public Health, Communications, Human Resources, Finance, Accounting, and Information Technology)

Transportation topics range from the design of transportation vehicles and systems, and the evaluation of the cost and efficiency of these vehicles and systems, to the study of environmental impacts on travelers (congestions, safety, and health related) and the development of transportation policies.

2. **Members of a racial minority group** (African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Native American or Pacific Islander).

Additional scholarship applications are available at www.comtonorcal.org



3. Applicants must either be residents of Northern California OR must attend college in Northern California.
4. Sophomore level students or above with a declared academic major. Applicants must have academic majors. Certificate programs and skilled trades are excluded.
5. Applicants must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or above.
6. Applicants will be required to verify information.
7. Winners are required to attend a COMTO event in order to receive the scholarship (such as December Awards Program); Scholarship funds will be mailed to the winners after the event.
8. Students may receive scholarships a maximum of two times from this COMTO chapter.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE – Applicants must submit all of the following:

- Completed application form.** (Item A below)
- Career Interest Essay** (Item B below, 1 page)
- Transportation Experience:** (Item C, ½ page)
- Grade Transcripts** – Most recent college transcript showing cumulative GPA. (Item E)
- Resume** (Item F)
- Reference** (Item G) – A reference from a professor, counselor, or advisor. Additional score points will be given if your reference prepares a letter on letterhead paper from the organization with which he/she is affiliated.

A. STUDENT APPLICATION

(Please print or type)

1. Applicant Name: _____
First Middle Last
2. Name of Current College/University: _____ Campus Location: _____
3. College/University Major: _____
4. Academic Status as of Sept. 1, 2019: Sophomore Junior Senior;
(Note – Applicants must be sophomore - senior level to be eligible.)
5. Number of Completed Credit Hours: _____
6. Expected Graduation Date: _____
7. Current Grade Point Average (G.P.A.): _____



8. List of Institutions of Higher Education Attended with current or last attended institution first.

Name and Location of Institution	Dates of Attendance	Degree Earned	Date Awarded	Major

9. College/University Residence Phone Number: _____

10. Permanent Residence Phone Number: _____

11. Cell Phone Number: _____

12. E-Mail Address: _____

13. Permanent Residence Address:

Street City State Zip Code

14. College/University Residence Address:

Street City State Zip Code

15. Race/Ethnicity: _____ (Note: Applicants must be members of a racial minority group, i.e., African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Native American or Pacific Islander.)

16. Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No

17. Are you a resident of Northern California Areas (San Francisco Bay Area or Sacramento Area) or do you currently attend school in Northern California? Yes, permanent resident of Northern California
 Yes, enrolled full-time at a college in Northern California No

18. Are you currently a student member of COMTO? Yes No

19. Have you received a COMTO scholarship previously Yes No
 If yes, specify year received COMTO chapter (or national) awarding scholarship _____

20. Signature – *I attest that all responses are accurate*
 _____ Date: _____

B. Career Interest Essay – Describe in detail on no less than one and a half pages, but no more than two pages, double spaced, your short and long-range professional goals in the transportation industry. Explain your plans to further your education and assist in making future contributions in your field of study within the transportation industry. Explain any special circumstances in your life that you have had to overcome in order to succeed academically. Explain how additional resources could enhance your success.

C. Transportation Experience – Describe on no less than a half-page, but no more than one page, double spaced, your experience using public transportation or high tech public transportation information services such as NextBus, Clipper, or smartphone transportation apps. If you were a transportation official



what suggestions would you make to improve public transportation and high tech applications for transportation planning?

D. Grade Transcripts – Please send your most recent grade transcripts. Include your entire college grade history.

E. Resume – Provide a 1-page resume that includes information on your work experience, volunteer activities, education, honors/awards received, and other interests.

F. Reference – One reference from a professor, counselor, or advisor.

DEADLINE – Materials must be mailed with postmarks no later than **November 2, 2019**.

Please submit the application, two essays, grade transcripts, resume, and the recommendation.

G. Scholarship Recommendation – Reference (See Attachment A)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Application materials must be postmarked no later than November 8, 2019.

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

**COMTO of Northern California
Scholarship Program
PO BOX 71855
Oakland, CA 94612-8055**

Applicants: Thank you for your interest in the COMTO scholarship program. If you have questions email Sheila Evans-Peguese at sheila.evans-peguese@sfmta.com

Please note that scholarship recipients are required to attend a COMTO meeting or event prior to receiving their award.



ATTACHMENT A

H. SCHOLARSHIP RECOMMENDATION – REFERENCE

NOTE: Recommendations provided on college/agency letterhead receive additional points; please include recommendation letter with this reference form.

Please ask your major professor, advisor, counselor, or other faculty member to complete this section:

1. Name of applicant (student):

2. I have the following relationship with student: (check as many as apply)

- checkbox Instructor/Professor checkbox Counselor
checkbox (His/her) Dept. Chair checkbox other (Specify) _____

3. I am acquainted with his / her work during the period

from: _____ month/year to: _____ month/year

4. His / Her major is:

5. I have had an opportunity to observe the quality of his/her work as (check one below):

- checkbox Outstanding checkbox Very good checkbox Good checkbox Fair

Please add any other comments that you consider to be pertinent to the evaluation of the applicant as a potential COMTO scholarship recipient. (You are encouraged to attach an additional page on school letterhead.)

Printed name of professor or advisor: _____ Institution/Department: _____

Signature of professor or advisor: _____ Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____

CONFIDENTIALITY: Please return this information to the applicant (whether sealed or not) so that it may be submitted along with other application materials. If confidentiality is desired, return to student in sealed envelope – or, mail directly to COMTO of Northern of Northern California as follows:

COMTO of Northern California
Scholarship Program
PO Box 71855
Oakland, CA 94612-8055