

The Geetha Arulmohan Scholarship Award and Internship Program



**Please complete this application and submit to Mercer Council by the first Friday in May.
For questions or clarification, please contact Mercer Council at (609) 396-5874.**

The Geetha Arulmohan Scholarship Award and Internship Program has been established to honor the memory and legacy of Geetha Arulmohan, who dedicated over fourteen years as the Executive Director of Mercer Council. Geetha's unwavering commitment to reducing the devastation caused by addiction in Mercer County left an indelible mark on our community. In her memory, this scholarship program aims to provide financial aid and an invaluable educational experience to aspiring individuals who are pursuing education, certification, and/or licensure in the fields of prevention, social work, counseling, and/or substance-related challenges. The scholarship award not only provides financial support but offers an opportunity to engage with our agency, and our community, through an internship.

Scholarship and Internship Details:

- **Amount:** The Geetha Arulmohan Scholarship Award starts at \$500. Applicants that complete an internship with our agency will be eligible to receive a total scholarship amount of \$1,000, to be used towards tuition costs and/or textbook fees only.
- **Eligibility:** The scholarship and internship program is open to Mercer County residents and individuals attending school in Mercer County who are pursuing education, certification, and/or licensure in fields related to prevention, public health, social work, sociology/psychology, counseling, or other substance- or behavioral health related challenges. This includes, but is not limited to, degrees or certifications such as CADC, CPS, LCADC, CPRS, CHES, or Bachelors or Masters Degrees.

Internship Commitment:

- To qualify for the full scholarship amount of \$1,000, recipients must commit to an internship at Mercer Council. The internship is an excellent opportunity to gain practical experience in the field and make a meaningful contribution to our mission of addressing addiction and behavioral health challenges in Mercer County.
- Internship duration and weekly hours will be determined in consultation with the recipient, ensuring a flexible and enriching experience.

Application Deadline: Annually on the first Friday in May.

Selection Process:

A selection committee composed of three (3) Mercer Council staff and three (3) Board members will evaluate applications based on academic qualifications and eligibility, the quality of the written essay, and the application’s expressed interest in interning with our agency. The seventh, “tiebreaking” member of the selection committee will be the agency’s Executive Director.

Our Commitment to Inclusivity:

The Geetha Arulmohan Scholarship Award and Internship Program is open to applicants of all ages and backgrounds who are eligible based on the aforementioned criteria. Our commitment to fostering diversity and inclusivity is reflected in our scholarship program and we welcome applicants from a wide range of experiences and life stages.

We understand that the internship component may not be suitable for all applicants due to various commitments and circumstances. Therefore, please note that the internship opportunity is optional. Applicants have the choice to apply for the **scholarship only**, or to explore the **scholarship with the internship option**. This flexibility is designed to ensure that the scholarship program accommodates the diverse needs and goals of our applicants. Those interested in exploring possibilities of completing an **externship** should contact us for further discussion.

Note: This scholarship and internship program aim to not only provide financial support for education, but also to foster a deeper connection between scholarship recipients and Mercer Council. It represents an opportunity to make a significant impact on the community and to carry forward Geetha’s legacy.

General Instructions to Applicant

- Please fill out the application in its entirety, carefully reviewing all sections for completion and clarity. **This application is the first impression you will make upon the scholarship selection committee, so please be thorough and attentive to all parts of the application.**
- Return a typed or neatly printed application, along with your resume, to:

Geetha Arulmohan Scholarship Award
c/o Mercer Council on Alcoholism & Drug Addiction
1931 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrence Twp, NJ 08648

- The scholarship award will be presented at the annual Prevention Awards Breakfast on the second Wednesday in June. The exact date of the breakfast will be confirmed upon announcement of the award.

Geetha Arulmohan Scholarship Award Application

Personal Information

Full Name of Applicant _____ Age _____
Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Email _____

Family Information

Parent/Guardian Name _____
Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Do you have any family/close relationships with a staff or board member? Yes No

If yes, explain: _____

Education Level

High School Senior College Student Graduate Student Certification/Training

Media Release

I, _____ (print name) grant permission for any and all photographs, videos and/or other media that include relevant information about me, if I am declared the winner of the Geetha Arulmohan Scholarship Award, to be used by Mercer Council. Further, I consent for these materials to be used by all its divisions for promotional use in, but not limited to: television, newspapers, magazines, brochures, newsletters, and online media (Facebook, YouTube, Mercer Council website blogs, LinkedIn, etc). I understand that no personal information will be associated with any photographs or videos without my consent, and that no compensation will be offered. Further, I understand that all photographs and/or videos taken by or provided to the staff are the property of Mercer Council.

Signature of Applicant

Date

For Parent/Guardian (if Applicant is under 18):

I grant permission to the terms stated above on behalf of my child.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Application Questions

1. Educational Background

- a. List the schools/programs you have attended in the past four years, starting with the one you are currently attending or have most recently attended.

- b. How many more years do you plan to attend college or your educational program?

- c. What is your intended major or course of study/certification?

2. Career Aspirations

- a. Describe your long-term career goals in the fields of prevention, public health, and/or other related areas.. How does the pursuit of higher education align with these goals?

- b. How do you envision making an impact in your field of study?

3. Interest in Mercer County

- a. What is your connection to Mercer County, and why are you interested in studying and/or working in this community?

- b. Are there specific colleges, universities or educational programs in Mercer County that you are interested in? If so, please list them.

- c. Are there specific agencies, organizations or initiatives in Mercer County that you are interested in working with? If so, please elaborate.

4. Application and Acceptance Status

- a. Have you applied to any colleges or programs in Mercer County for admission? If so, please list them and indicate your acceptance status.

- b. If you have received any other scholarships, grants or loans, please list them and specify the funding amounts you will receive.

5. Academic Achievements

- a. List any academic awards, honors or achievements you have received and provide the dates when they were awarded.

- b. Please highlight any specific coursework or projects related to your field of study.

6. Community Service and Extracurricular Activities

- a. Describe your involvement in community service, volunteer work, or extracurricular activities that relate to the fields of prevention, public health, and/or other areas related to behavioral health.

- b. How have these activities shaped your passion and commitment to these fields?

Please continue to the next page to view the next section of the application.

Essay Prompt

How does your passion for the field (of prevention, public health, social work, etc.) align with the mission and work of Mercer Council? Please describe, in 500 words or less, how receiving this scholarship, and potentially interning with our agency, will contribute to your personal and professional growth, and aid your ability to make a positive impact on the Mercer County community.

Academic Records and Recommendations

The following items must be completed by the applicant's principal or academic advisor:

- Attach a certified transcript of the applicant's high school/college or course record to this application.**

- Attach a letter of recommendation attesting to the student's character and demonstrated abilities and interests that make them a leading candidate for the scholarship award. (Please note that the letter of recommendation may be completed only by the applicant's principal, academic advisor, or an academic instructor that has direct knowledge of the applicant.)**

- Verify the applicant's Class Ranking and/or Grade Point Average**

Ranking in class (if applicable): _____

GPA: _____ on a _____ scale.

Verification of Academic Information

- I hereby confirm that the information provided in this application, especially regarding academic history and transcript details, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature of Principal or Academic Advisor

Date

Signature of Applicant

Date