

SUGGESTIONS WHEN APPLYING FOR THE RUSSELL SCHOLARSHIP

The task group offers students, parents, sessions, and advisors looking toward the Russell Scholarship process the following suggestions to maximize the effectiveness and impact of your application:

1. Make sure you start early enough to get your application mailed in on time. No one missed the time cut last year, but some came close.
2. Use sufficient postage. It's a little thing, but if you're trying to make a good impression it's a bit awkward to have your materials arrive "Postage Due."
3. Use an envelope large enough to contain all your materials without folding them.
4. Use the checklist provided at the beginning of the application to make sure you include every piece of information that is required. Some applicants left out some items last year.
5. If a particular piece of information is not available for some reason or another (your expected financial aid from your educational institution, for example), phone the number listed in the supporting materials on the Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery website, or call the presbytery office itself and explain the problem, then include written documentation of how the problem was dealt with. Several applicants encountered such issues, and no one who followed this procedure was hindered in the application process.
6. Write your personal essay thoughtfully, carefully, hey – even prayerfully! Brief and well-focused is fine, but do put some significant effort into it. In years past, some essays were enjoyable and inspiring reading, and gave a clear picture of who and what God was calling a particular applicant to be and do, how that person's educational goals fit into the picture, and how a Russell Scholarship might help. Others, not so much. This is a key part of the application.
7. Clerks of Session, in your recommendation be as specific and complete as you can in describing an applicant's life in faith. If you have questions, feel free to phone the convener (name and number listed in the on-line materials).