

Mark Chapman Scholars Program

Kansas State University | College of Arts and Sciences

Application Deadline – March 2, 2026

Description

Mark Chapman (1943–2015) was born in Clay Center, KS and graduated from K-State in 1965 with degrees in Political Science and History. A successful entrepreneur in the oil and gas industry, he was also a painter, poet and champion of the arts. A generous and creative donor to the College, he established the Chapman Scholars Program in 2008 in order to help A&S students “develop their exceptional skills, supercharge their careers, and bring prestige to K-State.”

In particular, the **Mark Chapman Scholars Program** helps promising students fund meaningful summer projects or activities early in their undergraduate careers and provides complementary scholarship funding for the following academic year. Awards of **\$5000** will be available for **Summer 2026** and **Academic Year 2026-2027**.

Chapman Scholars will receive \$3,000 to fund the summer activity and \$1,000 per semester in the following academic year. Students from all backgrounds and eligible majors are encouraged to apply. Summer project proposals may vary considerably. We invite creative and original proposals.

Possibilities include (but are not necessarily limited to) funding for:

- ❖ Research projects.
- ❖ International experiences.
- ❖ Unpaid or minimally paid internships.
- ❖ Entrepreneurial ideas pertinent to your goals.
- ❖ Community service or volunteer projects.
- ❖ Special coursework or training outside your K-State curriculum.

Eligibility

- ✓ Pursuing a degree track within the College of Arts & Sciences.
- ✓ Currently in your first or second year in college.
- ✓ Current enrollment in twelve or more credit hours.
- ✓ 3.2+ GPA.

Application Procedure

Please submit the following to sdur@ksu.edu by **March 2, 2026**

1. Résumé that includes the names of two references. At least one should be affiliated with K-State.
2. Essay that details your proposed summer project and explains how it will support your future goals. Two to four pages. Double spaced.
 - Identify whether you are approved for the experience yet or awaiting acceptance/confirmation.
 - Include the planned duration of your project and an estimated budget.



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3. List of courses you plan to take in Fall 2026. Briefly discuss how/why those courses support your future goals. No more than one page. Double spaced.
4. An unofficial K-State transcript.
5. *Signed* copy of the next page (which outlines program expectations).

Please contact Kyle Padden at **sdur@ksu.edu** if you have questions about the application or about the program.



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Expectations

Funding is contingent upon meeting the following expectations.

1. You are able to undertake the project you have proposed.
2. The project is expected to be a **primary** summer activity and should exhibit a commensurate expenditure of time and effort.
3. You must complete the summer project/activity to qualify for scholarship funding during the 2026-27 Academic Year.
4. You must be enrolled as a full-time student (either at Kansas State or as a study abroad participant) during the 2026-27 Academic Year.
5. Kansas State may want to do a news release for the winners. You agree to participate in appropriate university/college publicity regarding the award.
6. Students doing projects abroad must contact the Education Abroad Office at overseas@ksu.edu to determine the appropriate process for registering their travel.
7. Following your summer experience, write an essay reflecting on your project. The essay should narrate the experience. It should also consider what was learned and the potential value of those insights. Photographs may be included. Due to sdur@ksu.edu by **August 24, 2026**.
 - ♣ Three to four full pages minimum. Double spaced. Eleven-point type.
 - ♣ Fall disbursement (\$1,000) will be paid to the Chapman Scholar's account.
8. In late fall 2026, write an essay reflecting on how your Fall 2025 coursework was influenced by the summer project and/or complemented your understanding. The essay should strive to connect the classroom to the project. Due to sdur@ksu.edu by **January 25, 2027**.
 - ♣ Four pages minimum. Double spaced. Eleven-point type.
9. We understand that Chapman Scholars may meet unexpected obstacles. You will inform and consult with the Nationally Competitive Scholarships (NCS) office regarding project changes.
10. Required essays should be suitable for excerpted publication and/or favorable review by alumni and donors. NCS reserves the right to **require** editing or revision.
11. It is also expected that you submit a **photo and personal thank you letter** addressed to Cheryl Mellenthin. Cheryl was married to Mark Chapman before his death and remains engaged with the legacy of his benefaction. Due to sdur@ksu.edu by **May 4, 2026**. Letters should include:

"" A brief introduction that includes information about educational plans, career goals and activities the student has engaged in at K-State, as well as a brief explanation of the summer activity.



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"" An expression of gratitude for the funding and related project opportunity.

A note on financial implications of the award:

Your funding is part of your financial aid package. If you do not have a balance with the Cashier's office, you may receive your funds as a direct deposit or check.

If you have accepted financial aid, your aid could be reduced if you accept this award. If the amount of financial aid you have already accepted is the maximum amount that you can receive for your cost of attendance, then receiving this award will result in a reduction of your financial aid. Please contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance with any questions and SDUR for alternate payment options if needed.

I am willing to abide by these expectations:

Signature _____ Date _____

