



## **2024 OMEGA Scholarship Application**

**Submissions due May 31, 2024**

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### OMEGA: Opportunities for Multigenerational Exchange, Growth and Action

Through the generous sponsorship of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) [AgeLab](#) and [AARP Massachusetts](#), the MIT AgeLab's Opportunities for Multigenerational Exchange, Growth and Action (OMEGA) program is proud to offer **five \$5000 college scholarships** to recognize the efforts that teens are making to create multigenerational connections. **High school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply.**

Each award will include a \$5000 college scholarship to the winning student and \$1000 to the winning student's intergenerational initiative to support its activities. The OMEGA Scholarship is intended to amplify and support students' contributions to building initiatives, organizations and institutions that connect teens with older adults.

**Applications are due May 31, 2024.** Winners will be announced in late August 2024 and will be invited to present their work at a virtual OMEGA scholarship awards reception (specific date to be determined).

**Questions?** Please call or email the MIT AgeLab at [omegamit@mit.edu](mailto:omegamit@mit.edu) or 617-253-1894 if you have any questions about completing a recommendation letter. Students are also encouraged to set up a phone call or Zoom meeting with MIT AgeLab staff to discuss the progress of their programs and applications.

## Background Information

### About the MIT AgeLab

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology [AgeLab](#) is a research program started in 1999 to invent new ideas and creatively translate technologies into practical solutions that improve the quality of life of older adults and those who care for them. Through research ranging from longevity planning to caregiving, transportation, smart home, multigenerational work, and more, the AgeLab draws upon resources across MIT and applies user-centered systems thinking to understand the challenges and opportunities of longevity and emerging generational lifestyles to catalyze innovation in society, business, and government. Follow the MIT AgeLab on Twitter ([@MIT AgeLab](#)).

### About AARP Massachusetts

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org), [www.aarp.org/espanol](http://www.aarp.org/espanol) or follow @AARP, @AARPenEspanol and @AARPadvocates, @AliadosAdelante on social media.

### About OMEGA

[OMEGA](#) was created by the MIT AgeLab to support the development and growth of student-led programs and clubs that connect high school students with older adults. The goal of OMEGA is to strengthen relationships and promote connections across generations. OMEGA convenes student summits, virtual calls and other events each year in an effort to encourage students to connect across generations, brainstorm and share programming ideas, and to plan and carry out intergenerational programs and projects in their communities.

## OMEGA Scholarship Information

### Eligibility and Application Requirements

- **Applicants must be current high school juniors or seniors attending a high school in the United States serving in initiatives connecting high school students and older adults.**
- Applicants must be anticipating completion of a high school diploma in 2024 or 2025 and planning to pursue higher education at an accredited post-secondary institution.
- As part of the application we ask for information about your intergenerational initiative and community partner. An intergenerational initiative refers to the program, project, group, organization or club that you are a part of. A community partner is any organization or place that you may be working with in order to connect students with older adults in your community.
- A **complete** application for the scholarship must be received. Applications can be submitted through the form on our website ([agelab.mit.edu/omega](https://agelab.mit.edu/omega)), emailed as a PDF to [omegamit@mit.edu](mailto:omegamit@mit.edu), or mailed to: The MIT AgeLab, Attn: OMEGA Scholarship Committee, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E40-275K, Cambridge, MA 02139. **Please email us at [omegamit@mit.edu](mailto:omegamit@mit.edu) or give us a call (617-253-1894) if you intend to mail in an application so we can keep a look out for it.**
- Applications should highlight what you have already done, not theoretical or possible future contributions.
- Photos, videos and other digital media documenting your program are encouraged and can be submitted as supplemental materials.
- **Complete applications must include a letter submitted by a recommender attesting to your contributions to multigenerational engagement, including how the scholarship match will be used to further the efforts of the initiative.** We prefer to receive recommendations from supervisors, school staff, trusted adults, or community partners who can speak to the work you have done with your intergenerational initiative. **The letter should be completed and submitted by your recommender.** Guidelines for writing a letter are available on our website: [agelab.mit.edu/omega](https://agelab.mit.edu/omega).
- **An application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed until a recommendation letter has been submitted.**

## OMEGA Scholarship Information

### Judging Criteria

- **Impact:** The extent to which your intergenerational initiative effectively responds to a significant problem or need among teens and/or older adults and demonstrates a commitment to fostering a diverse, inclusive environment.
- **Sustainability:** The extent to which your intergenerational initiative's activities have potential for long-term success or positive influence beyond the initial implementation phase, including continuing after you graduate.
- **Recommendation:** How your recommender regards your contributions, leadership efforts, and program's long-term sustainability.
- **Creativity:** The extent to which your intergenerational initiative demonstrates an original, engaging, or innovative approach to fostering intergenerational connection.
- **Quality:** The extent to which the application is well-written, well thought-out, organized, and edited. This includes proofreading! Photos, videos and other digital media documenting your work are encouraged and can be submitted as supplemental materials.

## OMEGA Scholarship Application

### Part A: Student and High School Information

Student name:

Home address (please include city, state, and zip code):

Phone number:

Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY):

Email address:

High school name:

High school address (please include city, state, and zip code):

Year of high school graduation (check one):

2024

2025

Name of school principal or headmaster:

Principal/headmaster's phone number:

Principal/headmaster's email address:

How did you learn about the OMEGA Scholarship? (check all that apply)

- From a teacher or staff member at my school
- From a local organization (e.g., a local nonprofit)
- Through a newsletter, newspaper or magazine
- Online through a web search or website
- At an OMEGA-related event (e.g, Summits, Chat Hours, etc.)
- Somewhere else (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of intergenerational initiative:

## Part B: Advisor and Community Partner Information

Name of intergenerational initiative advisor(s) (if applicable):

Intergenerational initiative advisor(s) phone number:

Intergenerational initiative advisor(s) email address:

Have you worked with any partners or organizations in your local community as a part of your intergenerational initiative?

Yes       No       Not sure

Name of community partner organization(s) (if applicable):

Name of staff member(s) at community partner organization(s) (if different from initiative advisor, if applicable):

Staff member(s) phone number:

Staff member(s) email address:



## Part C: Intergenerational Initiative Description

**Note:** Please attach additional sheets as needed if your responses are outside the space allotted.

Write a brief description of your intergenerational initiative. Be sure to describe the goal of the initiative.

In one sentence, describe your role in the intergenerational initiative.

Please provide a detailed timeline of the activities/responsibilities you led or participated in for your intergenerational initiative. List format is acceptable.

What outcomes or benefits have resulted from your initiative? In what ways have teens and older adults mutually benefitted from your initiative?

How many students or teens are involved in your initiative (including yourself)?

How many older adults are involved in your initiative?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are these students/teens and older adults (e.g., other students from your school, older adults from your local senior center, etc.)?

Are there any other individuals involved in your program? If yes, please describe.

Please describe for us how your initiative advances values of diversity and inclusion for **younger people** in its activities.

Please describe for us how your initiative advances values of diversity and inclusion for **older people** in its activities.

What have you or the initiative done to ensure that it will be positioned for long-term success and/or continue to connect students and older adults after you graduate and/or leave the organization?

Briefly describe how the OMEGA scholarship match award will be used by your intergenerational initiative and/or by your community partner organization or initiative's advisor. Describe the discussions you have had about this with your community partner, initiative advisor, or any other people.

Should you be awarded this scholarship, to whom and where would the match award amount be directed and mailed?  
Please fill in the information below.

Name:	Phone number:
Affiliation:	Mailing address:
Email address:	

## **Part D: Supplemental Materials (OPTIONAL)**

You may choose to include supplemental materials documenting your program (e.g., links to a program website, photos, videos, other documents) with your application.

You may include links below and/or attach files to this document; email to [omegamit@mit.edu](mailto:omegamit@mit.edu); or mail to The MIT AgeLab, Attn: OMEGA Scholarship Committee, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E40-275K, Cambridge, MA 02139.

## Part E: Demographics (OPTIONAL)

We are using this information to learn more about the demographics of our applicants. The two questions below are **completely optional** and **will not** affect your eligibility for the OMEGA Scholarship.

With which gender do you most closely identify?

Woman

Man

Prefer not to answer

Prefer to self-identify: \_\_\_\_\_



Please select all of the race(s)/ethnicities with which you most closely identify.

- African
- Asian-American
- Black or African-American
- East Asian (including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Tibetan, and Taiwanese)
- Hispanic, Latine, or Spanish Origin
- Indigenous American/First Nations (including Native American, American Indian, Alaskan Native)
- Middle Eastern
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- South Asian (including Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Indian, Nepali, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan)
- Southeast Asian (including Burmese, Cambodian, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, Malaysian, Mien, Singaporean, Thai, and Vietnamese)
- White or Caucasian
- Prefer to self-identify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

## Final Step

**Note:** In order to be eligible for the scholarship, you **must** have a recommender **complete and submit** a recommendation letter using the guidelines found on our website: [agelab.mit.edu/omega](https://agelab.mit.edu/omega).

Recommenders can complete a letter online and e-mail completed letters to [omegamit@mit.edu](mailto:omegamit@mit.edu), or they may mail them to: The MIT AgeLab, Attn: OMEGA Scholarship Committee, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E40-275K, Cambridge, MA 02139. **Recommendation letters must be received by the application deadline (May 31, 2024) in order for an application to be considered for the scholarship.**

### IMPORTANT

**Please read and agree to the below statement:**

I have completed this application fully and to the best of my ability. I understand that my application will not be complete until my recommender submits a recommendation.