

# EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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## **The Elberta Harris Scholarship Application**

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Elberta Harris of Gardner, Kansas, left more than \$1.1 million to Emporia State University to support scholarships for prospective teachers enrolled in ESU's Teachers College.

Like many schoolteachers during the 1920s and 1930s, Harris attended summer school at Emporia State University for a number of years. Majoring in history and minoring in English, Harris qualified for teacher certification each year until she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education in the social sciences in 1937. Harris spent her entire 38-year teaching career in the Olathe School District, where she taught at Olathe Junior High School and Melbrook Junior High School, both of which have since closed.

Harris' civic commitment was sparked by her father, Albert Harris. A farmer in the Gardner area, Albert was widely respected for his political and civic skills and for his ability to work with his hands.

In 1993, Harris established a scholarship fund in the Teachers College. The addition of the \$1.1 million from her estate makes the Elberta Harris Scholarship Fund the largest single endowed scholarship at ESU. Elberta Harris died on December 23, 1998.

## Application Requirements

### An incoming freshman must:

- graduate from a Johnson County high school
- apply to ESU and plan to pursue a degree in elementary or secondary education
- have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- have a strong record of community service
- submit a completed application, scholarship essay, two letters of recommendation, official high school transcript, and official ACT scores (*ONLY if the high school does not automatically include ACT scores on the transcript*) by December 16

### An incoming transfer student or current ESU student must:

- have graduated from a Johnson County high school
- be a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours per semester) pursuing a degree in elementary or secondary education
- have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- have a strong record of community service
- submit a completed application, scholarship essay, two letters of recommendation, and official college transcript(s) by December 16

## Renewal Information

The scholarship is automatically renewed each year provided that the recipient maintains a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, successfully completes coursework towards a degree in elementary or secondary education, and is continuously enrolled in at least 12 credit hours each semester of the academic year. Freshman scholarships may be renewed up to three times, for a total of four years of awards; transfer and continuing ESU student scholarships are renewed as allowed by class standing (a sophomore awardee may have the scholarship renewed twice, a junior may have the scholarship renewed once).

## Questions?

For more information about the Elberta Harris Scholarship or other ESU Scholarships, contact Emporia State University.

800-896-0567

or

[ESUscholarships@emporia.edu](mailto:ESUscholarships@emporia.edu)

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## The Elberta Harris Scholarship Application

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### Instructions:

- 1) Fill out this **application** form completely.
- 2) Write an **essay** on the following topic: "What are the three most important characteristics of an effective teacher?" The essay must be 500 to 750 words in length and typed.
- 3) Provide **two letters of reference**. One should be from a teacher or professor and the other should be from an individual who can describe qualities that will contribute to your success as a teacher (high school counselor, principal, etc.). If you are a current ESU student, both letters may be written by ESU faculty members.
- 4) Submit your **official academic transcript**. Incoming freshman transcripts should include your cumulative GPA, class rank, and class size.
- 5) Freshman only: Submit your **official ACT scores ONLY** if your ACT score does not appear on your high school transcript.

### Send all application materials to:

Elberta Harris Scholarship Application  
Dean's Office, The Teachers College – Campus Box 4036  
1 Kellogg Circle  
Emporia, KS 66801-5087  
OR email PDF to [ttcdean@emporia.edu](mailto:ttcdean@emporia.edu)

**All application materials must be postmarked no later than December 16.** Completed applications will be reviewed by a scholarship committee. Recipients will be notified by February 15.

### Please type or print clearly.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

### Permanent Address:

Number and Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

| School(s) Attended | City | State | (mo/year) to (mo/year) |
|--------------------|------|-------|------------------------|
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**Academic Achievements**

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**Clubs/Organizations, including offices held (i.e., Senior Class President, Eagle Scout, Girl Scout, FBLA, DECA, etc)**

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**Community Activities**

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Unweighted Cumulative GPA in hundredths (A = 4.00) \_\_\_\_\_

**Freshman Only:**

Rank in Graduating High School Class \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students in Class \_\_\_\_\_

ACT Scores (incoming freshman only – copy firstly from records):

| English   |       | Math    |          |           | Reading  |         | Science Reasoning | Composite |
|-----------|-------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|-------------------|-----------|
|           |       |         |          |           |          |         |                   |           |
| Use/Mech. | Rhet. | Elm/Alg | Alg/Geom | Geom/Trig | Soc Sci. | Art/Lit |                   |           |

**Verification by Counselor or School Office**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

USD Name \_\_\_\_\_ USD # \_\_\_\_\_ USD Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_