

Bonita Kraft Graduate Scholarship in Mental Health

Bonita Kraft graduated from the San Jose State University Department of Occupational Therapy in 1972 and has distinguished herself as an occupational therapy mental health practitioner and administrator. She was the OT Department's Distinguished Alumna in 1999. Bonita has been and continues to be a cherished participant in the Occupational Therapy Association of California and a generous contributor to the California Foundation for Occupational Therapy (CFOT), serving on the Board of Directors for this philanthropic professional organization. Since 2004 she generously donated scholarships to SJSU graduate students in our program to assist them with their master's level research and in 2008 endowed a scholarship to be awarded yearly to a SJSU OT student committed to a career in Mental Health Occupational Therapy. In 2012 she generously increased her endowment to be able to fund additional scholarships to support Mental Health Occupational Therapy Practice. Bonita stands as a role model for giving back to one's alma mater.

The following criteria and guidelines have been established to assist in awarding Bonita Kraft Scholarships.

Student Scholarships

Scholarships will be awarded according to the following criteria

1. Financial Need
2. Overall GPA 3.0 or better
3. Past work or volunteer experiences, or other related activities (attendance at conferences, workshops or projects) that confirm a commitment regarding Occupational Therapy in Mental Health as a career choice.
4. Personal statement (one page in length) that clearly and compellingly describes the student/applicant's future professional plans toward a clinical practice in Mental Health Occupational Therapy.

Guidelines

1. Master of Science in OT Degree Students are eligible to apply in their 2nd and 4th semesters in the O.T. curriculum.
2. If the recipient leaves the program for any reason, the amount of the award is to be returned to the scholarship fund.

3. Students may submit requests for financial assistance to support special projects or research focused on the topic of Mental Health Occupational Therapy. Proposals will be judged on thoroughness of design, and value to the practice of Mental Health Occupational Therapy. A letter of support must be submitted by the faculty member guiding the research project.
4. Awards of up to \$2,500.00 will be granted to an individual student. Each application must be reviewed by a committee within the Department of Occupational Therapy. The amount awarded will be determined by the amount requested, the applicant's qualifications according to the criteria, and the demand for scholarships in relation to the funds available.

PROCEDURES

[Applications](#) are available on the Occupational Therapy Department Website OR in the Department of Occupational Therapy Office (CCB 203). Completed applications are to be returned to the department office where they will be referred to a Scholarship Committee for review. If the application is approved, the student will receive a confirmation letter which is to be taken to the Bursar's Office for disbursement. These letters are typically mailed in June but the awards are for the Fall Semester at which time they will be funded. Those awardees who have completed their academic course work and will be starting their Fieldwork during the summer will be awarded their money mid-summer. The confirmation letter will specify when you can expect to receive your award.