

## **NEW for Fall 2023: Merryll Penson MLIS Scholarship**

The Department of Library and Information Studies in the Dewar College of Education and Human Services is excited to announce Merryll Penson Scholarship for the **Fall 2023** semester. Merryll Penson is the retired Executive Director of Library Services in the Office of Instructional and Information Technology in the University System of Georgia. The scholarship is made possible by many generous donations made in honor of Merryll Penson on the occasion of her retirement from the University System of Georgia. Applications for these scholarships are due **February 12**.

### Application Guidelines:

#### A. To be eligible for a Merryll Penson Scholarship applicants must:

1. Be accepted into the MLIS degree program and registered for a minimum of six (6) credits of MLIS courses for Fall 2023
2. Have documented indication of financial need in the form of a current FAFSA on file in the VSU Office of Financial Aid
3. Have a Valdosta State Graduate GPA of 3.5 or higher
4. No MLIS course grade lower than a B (3.0)

#### B. To apply:

1. Submit a letter of application including a brief profile of your career goals and your progress towards those goals so far. Include in your application letter a statement that you can document financial need because you have a FAFSA on file with the VSU Office of Financial Aid. Your letter must include your VSU Student Identification number (870-xx-xxxx) and your VSU email address.
2. Complete a Program of Study form with your MLIS Program advisor. Your Program of Study form must include a list of the courses you have completed as well as those you are planning to take and grades for all courses you have completed. The blank Program of Study form is located on the MLIS Academic Advising webpage under Program of Study Form: <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/mlis-forms/program-of-study-form.pdf>
3. Submit your application letter and your program of study to your MLIS advisor. After review, your advisor will forward your application to the MLIS Program Director.
4. Recipients of a Merryll Penson MLIS scholarship must be willing to submit a photo of themselves and a brief quotation of what the scholarship award means to them. This material will be forwarded to the University System of Georgia, Inc. Foundation and used in publicity related to the scholarships. By providing this material the recipients allow the USG Foundation to use them in their publications.
5. Deadline for submission of the Merryll Penson Scholarship application is **February 12**.

#### C. Selection

1. The MLIS Awards and Scholarship Committee will review the applications.
2. All applicants will be reviewed in the Spring semester; the awards will be applied to the following Fall semester.
3. Each scholarship recipient will receive an award letter prior to the beginning of the semester in which the scholarship will be applied.

#### **D. Procedures for Disbursement**

Each semester, awards will be applied to the students' bursary account prior to the fee payment deadline. Any university fees or expenses beyond the amount of the scholarship award will be the responsibility of the student.

#### **SUBMIT your cover letter to:**

Your MLIS advisor - email preferred.

Fax: 229-259-5055 (To the attention of your advisor).

If you elect to use mail, use the following address:

Department of Library and Information Studies  
Valdosta State University  
1500 North Patterson Street  
Valdosta GA 31698  
ATTN: "Your Advisor"