**What is the B.F. Smith Scholars Program?**

The B.F. Smith Scholars Program consists of graduate assistantships for students and provides support for faculty and students pursuing special coursework, seminars, lectures, travel, research in the field of business development and internships related to economic development and public service. The graduate assistantships may be awarded to students with a record of academic achievement and commitment to the region for pursuit of a degree related to the field of economic development such as finance, marketing, economics, political science, sociology, or public administration.

**Who can apply?**

This scholarship competition is open to all students who demonstrate a commitment to the development of the Delta Region.

**Admission Requirements**

The candidate must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university in a discipline related to the field of economic development such as education, finance, marketing, economics, political science, sociology, or public administration with a minimum overall undergraduate grade point average of 3.25.

*In addition, the recipient cannot be employed full-time outside the University during this period.*

**Submissions**

Submit the following documents to the Graduate Studies Office by **July 1st** prior to the beginning of the Fall semester:

- Graduate school application
- An official undergraduate transcript
- A cover letter outlining the applicant’s qualifications
- The name, title, address and phone number of at least three references
- A written statement describing why the candidate wishes to become a B.F. Scholar and how the program can lead to career success, preferably in the Mississippi Delta

Formal interviews with prospective students will be requested as needed. The Delta State University faculty and graduate committee will recommend the students to be awarded the B.F. Smith Scholarships.

The documents must be submitted to the following address:

Graduate and Continuing Studies
Delta State University
ATTN: Tyrone Jackson
239 Kent Wyatt Hall
Cleveland, MS 38733
B. F. Smith was known as the "Father of Economic Development in the Delta." As chief executive officer of Delta Council from 1947 until his retirement in 1983, he was widely respected for his role as a tireless advocate for the Mississippi Delta. In this capacity for nearly 40 years, Smith worked to insure the region's needs were addressed on the local, statewide and national levels. His influence and leadership still have a dramatic impact on growth and opportunities experienced today in this region.

For additional information, please contact:

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