GivaGrant™

Are You Engaged?

Best Practices Around Grading Scholarship Applications

1. Establish Clear, Transparent Scoring Criteria

- Create a rubric with weighted categories (e.g., academics, leadership, financial need, etc).
- Define what each score (e.g., 1-5) means for each criterion.
- Ensure all reviewers are trained on the rubric to maintain consistency.
- Bonus tip: Use qualitative "hints" or explanations in the rubric to guide subjective scoring.

2. Promote Real-Time Reviewer Collaboration

- Enable real-time commenting and discussions between reviewers within the platform.
- Reviewers, share application insights, personal experiences with applicants and align on any scoring discrepancies. Frequently reviewers change scoring after reviewing comments.
- This increases objectivity and helps surface perspectives that might otherwise be missed.
- Real-time visibility into scores can prevent wide variances and reduce bias.

3. Engage and Support Volunteer Reviewers

- Offer brief training sessions or materials to ensure reviewers are aligned with expectations.
- Keep the experience lightweight and easy-to-navigate to prevent burnout.

4. Stay Objective Through Reviewer Blinding (if possible)

- Consider removing applicant names or certain affiliations where feasible to reduce unconscious bias.
- Use aggregated scores instead of individual judgments to even out outlier reviews.

5. Analyze and Adjust

• After each cycle, review scoring patterns for inconsistencies or trends.
• Solicit feedback from reviewers: what worked, what was unclear, what took too long.
• Continuously refine the rubric and review process based on data and reviewer input.

6. Keep the Process Efficient

• Use automation where possible: reminders, progress tracking, score calculations.
• A streamlined platform like GivaGrant helps reviewers focus on evaluating applications rather than navigating clunky software.

Why It All Matters

• Volunteer reviewers resonate with applicants, by reading their essays/applications are more likely to stay engaged, donate more and have a bigger impact.
• Applicants have a better experience, are more likely to reapply and will stay connected with the organization.

How GivaGrant Brings These Best Practices to Life

GivaGrant is the only platform purpose-built for Greek foundations and the s cholarship programs they manage. Here's how it helps you execute these best practices flawlessly:

Volunteer reviewers resonate with applicants and are more likely to stay engaged, donate more and have a bigger impact.

• **Custom Rubrics & Weighting** (coming later this month): Score applicants using built-in, weighted rubrics with clear guidance for each criterion.

• **Real-Time Collaboration:** Reviewers can comment, compare notes, and align scores without leaving the platform.

• **No Training Required:** Designed for non-tech-savvy users, GivaGrant is intuitive for admins, reviewers, and applicants alike.

• **Blinded Reviews (Optional):** Hide applicant info to ensure objectivity and reduce bias.

• **Lightning-Fast Setup:** Be up and running in as little as 30 minutes. We handle your migration and customization.

• **Volunteer Engagement:** A simple, collaborative experience elevates the reviewer satisfaction and results in long-term involvement.

With GivaGrant, your foundation can stay true to best practices while eliminating the complexity that often holds teams back. It's not just a tool, it's a smarter way to manage scholarships.