

Curtis Wilson Life...Legacy [1953-1995]



Professor Curtis Wilson was the former director of the Black Studies Program and Assistant Professor of History at Cleveland State University. He was a tireless advocate for students and served as an advisor to several student organizations; including a CSU Organization for African American student newspaper. His culinary skills were legendary, and members of campus community looked forward to the annual spring barbecues that he coordinated for “Greek Week” and “Spring Fest” activities. At CSU he designed courses on the history of jazz and the history of African American music in general. He was in the process of writing a book, *The Blues: Voices of the Underclass*.

He was born in Northport, Alabama on February 27, 1932. After graduating Valedictorian of the Tuscaloosa County Training School class of 1949, he received a scholarship to attend Stallman College.

Before coming to Cleveland in 1959, he served in the United States Air Force from 1952-57. While in Cleveland, he earned an A.B. Degree at Case Western Reserve University. He also completed graduate coursework in Sociology at Kent State University, earned a Master’s Degree, and studied for his doctorate in History at Carnegie Mellon University.

His teaching career began in 1962 when he accepted a position in the Social Studies Department at the Harry E. Davis Junior High School. He later went on to serve as Chairman of Social Studies at Franklin Deleanor Roosevelt Junior High School and provided in-service training in African American History for teachers in the Cleveland Public Schools. Professor Wilson taught college courses at Alleghany Community College, Carnegie Mellon University and Columbia University, before he became an instructor in the History Department at Cleveland State University in 1969. He was hired as the Director of Black Studies and Assistant Professor of History in 1971 and continued to work in that capacity until his retirement.

Professor Wilson participated in educational and civic activities until medical problems forced him to retire in 1989. Following his retirement, he moved to Alabama, and died at his home on December 13, 1996.

CURTIS WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

Candidates for the Curtis Wilson Scholarship must meet the following criteria:

- Be officially accepted for admission to Cleveland State University;
- File a completed Federal Student Aid Form with the Cleveland State Financial Aid Office;
- Be an African-American entering freshman with a diploma from a Cleveland Municipal School District high school; and,
- Have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5.

Additionally, once the scholarship is awarded, the recipient must adhere to the following:

- The scholarship must be used within the first year of attendance at the University;
- The student must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average the first year;
- The student must maintain a course load of at least 12 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters; and,
- If the scholarship is used summer semester, the student must enroll by June 30th of that academic year.

The Curtis Wilson scholarship is a tuition-only based scholarship for use at Cleveland State University. The scholarship will not be awarded if the recipient also receives other scholarship funds that cover the full cost of tuition. **The Black Faculty and Staff Organization at Cleveland State University will award ten (10) \$ 4,000 Curtis Wilson Scholarships to be used during the 2023 – 2024 academic year.**

Employees of Cleveland State University, their spouses, and their children are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.



Scholarship Application for New Freshmen

CURTIS WILSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Please submit this application by **May 30, 2023**. Print or type neatly.

A. General Information

Name: _____ Social Security # **(Last Two Digits Only)**: _____
First M.I. Last

Address: _____
Number/Street City State Zip Code

Date of Birth: / /

Gender: F M Telephone Number: _____ Home: _____ Work: _____

Email Address: _____

B. Academic Data

High School: _____

Address: _____

Name of High School Counselor: _____

Expected Date of High School Graduation: _____

Proposed major at CSU: _____

Date of Entrance to CSU: Summer, 2023 Fall, 2023

C. Race and Ethnicity

Please select/circle one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself.

- * African/African-American
- * Caucasian
- * Hispanic or Latino
- * Asian
- * Native American or Alaskan Native
- * Other _____

D. Activities

List school activities, offices held, honors, and community activities:

E. Work Experiences

Employer	Date From	Date To	Job Description (be specific)

F. Essay Information

Use this space to give information about your career goals, background, and other factors that would assist the committee in judging your eligibility.

Please note: all students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to qualify for a scholarship.

Certification/All applications must sign below.

I authorize the release of all scholarship materials, including references and transcripts, to the Curtis Wilson Scholarship Fund Committee. In the event that I am awarded a scholarship, information in sections A through C may be released to the media.

(Applicant's Signature)

(Date)

TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Current Rank: _____

Current Cumulative GPA: _____

ACT Scores: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
 English Math Reading Science Composite

SAT Scores: _____ _____ _____
 Verbal Math Composite

Return To: Ms. Kim Hurn, MBA, M.Ed.
Curtis Wilson Scholarship Selection
Committee, Chair

Via email: k.hurn@csuohio.edu

For more information, please email or
call (216) 687- 4740

Counselor's Signature

Date