



2026-27 Kinder Institute Democracy Lab FIG *Scholarship Call for Applications*

Program Overview

Founded in 2019 as a joint project of Mizzou's Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, College of Arts & Science, Department of Residential Life, and MU Honors College, the Kinder Institute Democracy Lab (KIDL) Freshman Interest Group (FIG) provides up to 40 incoming MU students who share a passion for studying and discussing the global history of democracy with the opportunity to pursue this interest in- and outside the classroom as a cohort during their first year on campus.

At the core of the Democracy Lab is a two-semester sequence of small, 3-credit hour, discussion-based seminars—one in the fall and another in the spring, with Honors and non-Honors options both semesters—through which students explore the intellectual, constitutional, and revolutionary origins of democracy in the United States and abroad. In addition to these seminars, Democracy Lab participants co-enroll in a fall lecture course on the transnational dimensions of the U.S. Civil War, as well as a one-credit hour introduction to constitutional democracy fall proseminar. KIDL students also have the option to co-enroll in a one-credit hour research-oriented course designed specifically for FIG participants in the spring.

All KIDL students will also be invited to take part in a rich array of extracurricular activities—ranging from out-of-town field trips, to social events, to a student-run lecture committee—designed by the Democracy Lab's faculty coordinator, peer learning assistants, and undergraduate programming fellows.

How to Sign Up

Open to incoming, first-year students of any and all majors at Mizzou, signing up for the KIDL is as easy as choosing "Kinder Institute Democracy Lab" or "Honors Kinder Institute Democracy Lab" on Slate's FIG preference form as you're completing your application for admission to MU. Once you do this *and* submit your housing contract and deposit, your seat in the Democracy Lab will be secured, so long as space remains.

Note: Based on last year's numbers, we anticipate the FIG filling up quickly, so we **strongly encourage** students interested in the KIDL, whether applying for a scholarship or not, to complete the preference form as soon as possible and meet all subsequent admissions-related deadlines in a timely manner.

Instructions for the separate KIDL scholarship application can be found on page 2 of this document

2026-27 KINDER INSTITUTE DEMOCRACY LAB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Kinder Institute is excited to offer all participants in our Democracy Lab FIG the opportunity to apply for one of three scholarships: the need-based Morgan Scholarship, merit-based Atterbury Scholarship, or general Kinder Scholarship. Applying is a simple, three-step process that runs through Mizzou's central Scholarship Universe platform (note: completing one application makes you eligible for all three scholarships).

Step 1. Set up a profile on Scholarship Universe (tips for doing that can be found on the MU Office of Financial Aid website) and identify the KIDL scholarships using "Kinder Institute" as a search term.

Step 2. To be matched with the scholarship, you will first need to answer "Yes" to the question regarding having selected/intending to select the Kinder Institute Democracy Lab or Honors Democracy Lab option on Slate's FIG preference form.

Step 3. Upload the application components detailed below—the academic CV and essay responses—as a single PDF through Scholarship Universe.

I. *Academic CV*: Provide a record of your high school accomplishments, making sure, when applicable, to include such things as GPA; ACT and/or SAT scores; AP, IB, and/or dual-credit classes taken; awards received; clubs participated in; work and/or volunteer experience.

II. *Essay Questions*: Please respond to **both** of the following questions in 300-500 words **each**

- What are the greatest obstacles that civic education faces in the 21st century?
- Of the Constitutional Democracy BA's four concentration areas—U.S. and the World, Politics and Policy, Law and Institutions, and Social and Political Thought—which would you choose and why?

ELIGIBILITY and TERMS

—Acceptance into MU's Honors College is a pre-requisite for receiving an Atterbury Scholarship and demonstrated financial need, as determined by MU's Office of Financial Aid, is a pre-requisite for receiving a Morgan Scholarship. Students who fall into neither category are still eligible for a Kinder Scholarship.

—Scholarships will be disbursed in two, equal installments prior to the beginning of the Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 semesters. Recipients must be enrolled in the core seminars associated with the Democracy Lab, as well as the one-credit hour, KIDL-specific class in the fall, to receive their scholarships.

The core seminars are GN_HON 2245H: Revolutions (fall) and GN_HON 2246H: Constitutions (spring) for Honors students. For non-Honors students, the core seminars are CNST_DEM 2450: Intellectual World of the American Founders (fall, cross-listed with Political Science) and CNST_DEM 2100: Revolutionary Transformation of Early America (spring, cross-listed with History).

Early KIDL Scholarship Deadline: December 1, 2025 (late-December notification)

Regular KIDL Scholarship Deadline: February 1, 2026 (mid-February notification)

*****Any questions can be directed to Dr. Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu*****