

FAQs for Scholarship Applications

Please note that this document will be updated throughout the 2023 Scholarship season (Last Update 3/21)

General Information

Where do I apply?

- Following this link:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Universe/Update?process=cc012078-3177-4cfb-91ed-c98ea4291073>
- "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

When are applications due?

- Complete applications must be submitted by **midnight on March 31st, 2023**
- Please note that there are two portions of a scholarship application. The first portion, called a Common Application, must be submitted *before* applicants can apply for individual scholarships.
- To allow enough time to complete your applications for all of the scholarships you may be eligible for, **we highly recommend completing your Common Application as soon as possible.**

When should I apply?

- Complete and submit the first portion of your application, the Common Application, **as soon as possible**
- The scholarship software sorts eligibility for specific local scholarships
- Many scholarships have additional requirements to be met such as essays, letter of recommendation, or interviews
- Give yourself *plenty* of time to complete everything needed for every scholarship opportunity you are eligible for by the deadline (March 31st)

I'm taking a Gap Year. When should I apply for scholarships?

- Students taking a gap year may still be eligible for scholarships. This said, **you are required to apply with your graduating class.**
- Be clear about you plans in your application.

I've moved recently and the address on my transcript is not my current address. Which address should I use?

- Addresses in transcripts are not tracked. Please include your current address in your application.

What happens next?

- After submitting a Common Application the software will sort your eligibility for individual scholarships
- Take time to review each scholarship you are eligible for including the additional requirements they have
- Additional detail on many scholarships can be found on the TTCF website here: <https://www.ttcf.net/scholarship-list/>

Common Application Tips:

- Read through the application and compile all of the necessary information and paperwork

Examples:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Employment information | ■ Acceptance letters |
| • Volunteer information | ■ Financial info |
| • School & community activity info | ■ Proof of expected family contribution (EFC) |
| • Transcripts | |

High School Information

Uploading standardized test records:

- **Please upload only PDF documents**
- If you are able to access and upload an official PDF, such as with MyACT, please direct official results to scholarships@ttcf.net, and we will add them to your application.

From whom should I ask for a Letter of Recommendation (LOR) for the Common Application?

- Someone who knows you well outside of school (ex. family friend, employer, trainer, coach, etc)
- NOT a family member OR a teacher
- Additional LORs from teachers may be required by specific scholarships

LOR Tips:

- Give your recommender(s) *plenty* of time to complete your LOR (ideally 2+ weeks)
- Reach out to your recommenders(s) before submitting a request in the software

- The software will send an email from the address administrator@grantinterface.com
- Tell your recommender(s) to keep an eye out for an email from this address and to check their Spam folder if they do not see the request within a day of sending it

What are "special training, skills, certification, or education" asked for in the Common Application?

Examples (not limited to the following):

- First Aid, CPR, AED Certification
- Search & Rescue
- Wilderness First Responder (WFR)
- Avalanche Training
- Ski/Snowboard Coach
- Private Pilot's License
- PADI/Scuba
- Welding
- Woodworking
- Sports Referee
- Private music lessons
- Dance Instructor
- Babysitting
- Creative Writing instruction
- Bilingual

College/University Information

What if I haven't heard back yet from my schools?

- List schools in order of preference
- Email acceptance letters as soon as you receive them to scholarships@ttcf.net

What if I'm not going to a 4-year school?

- All school paths are supported by various scholarships (2-year, 4-year, vocational, certificate programs etc.)
- If applicable, be sure to select "2-year with the intent to transfer to 4-year"

I'm attending Community College and don't have an acceptance letter to upload. What should I do?

- Please select "Yes" in the "Have you been accepted?" drop down.
- Next, create a Word document or PDF that includes a note stating your intention to attend Community College and which school you plan to attend.
- Upload this file to the acceptance letter section of your application.

How specific do I need to be about my major and future plans?

- Some scholarships are for specific majors/career paths while many others don't require that type of specificity
- It's fine to be undecided, but make effort to share your interests, what subjects you want to explore, and what you want from your college experience

Household/Financial Information

Should I complete my FAFSA forms before submitting my application?

- **Yes!** Your FAFSA documentation is an important part of determining the eligibility of your application. To be considered eligible for need-based scholarships, your FAFSA documents must be submitted with your Common Application.
- [FAFSA® Application | Federal Student Aid](#)

What if I don't have my financial aid package yet?

- As soon as you receive your financial pack info email it to scholarships@ttcf.net

What if I have a high Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

- Some scholarships are “need-based” while others are “merit-based” and do not consider EFC

Personal Essay

What should I write about in the main personal essay?

- Your entire application is framed to get a sense of who you are
- This essay offers the opportunity to show reviewers (not just tell them) what makes you uniquely you.
- Include information such as your interests, hobbies, issues that concern you and their solutions, and/or any special considerations you would like reviewers to consider.
- Include your feelings about your future, your immediate plans, your future aspirations, and how you intend to accomplish your goals, including your opinion on the value of education.
- Address intended majors, activities, etc. relevant to specific scholarships for which you are applying.

Essay Tips:

- Note character limits to assure your submission will fit.
- Write your essay draft(s) outside the software and copy into application.
- Use spell check and carefully reread before copying text into the software.
- Share your draft with at least one trusted person who can offer feedback before submitting.
- The first sentence or two must capture the reader’s attention and give a sense of where the essay is heading.
- Make it real – avoid the generic and share specifics – something that really happened to you, shaped you, influenced your future.
- Zero in on particular aspects, not every detail or a blow-by-blow account.

- Make it personal – open up, show your truest self, your vulnerability and grit. You don't have to be a super hero with a successful ending. Sometimes it's the smallest moments that can cause reflection.
- Write like you speak – don't try to be someone else. Find and keep your own voice (this also means your parents should **NOT** write for you!)
- Make connections between experiences and their influence on you.
- Don't just rehash information already provided.

Review Process

Who are the scholarship evaluators?

- Evaluating committee members are volunteers from our local community. Some are donors themselves, while others are active individuals who have served as an evaluator for several years.
- Evaluators do not have a conflict of interest such as a family member or family friend in the application process.

What sort of information are scholarship evaluators able to see about me?

- Evaluators are able to see all the information in your application that is applicable and necessary to their review.
- All of the information you provide in your application is fully confidential and not shared outside of the individual review sessions performed.

How many scholarships can one student be awarded?

- We've seen as many as 6 or 7 scholarships awarded to one student based on need, merit, and eligibility.

How do I find out if I'm awarded a scholarship?

- Some scholarships will contact you directly while others will wait until the end of the year senior event to share announcements.

Can scholarships be used for something other than tuition?

- Scholarship funds are sent directly to the recipient once they comply to claim their award, and can be used as needed as long as the recipient is attending school.
- Different scholarships may be intended for different purposes. Some specify that they are intended to help defray the costs of the applicant's first year of school, while others may be intended to support tech supplies or books.
- Award decisions take into account financial aid offers from schools and any known restrictions or limitations imposed on the use of local awards.

Still got a question?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to scholarships@ttcf.net with any questions about your application.