



Frequently Asked Questions about Scholarships from The Dallas Foundation

The scholarship application process can be as daunting as your college or university search. The Dallas Foundation would like to help.

We've provided the answers to our most frequently asked scholarship program questions so that you can quickly and easily find the information you need.

What scholarship programs do you offer?

The Foundation manages a number of different scholarship programs with varied eligibility requirements. View our [Scholarship Listing](#) to review the details of each scholarship, including eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

How do I apply for a scholarship?

Each Scholarship Fund Profile provides information about how to apply. In most cases you can download a copy of the application from the website. In some cases you will have to contact someone outside the Foundation for an application, and this contact information is included in the profile. Please be sure to carefully review eligibility requirements before you apply.

May I fax or email my application?

No. The Foundation does not accept applications by email or fax. Items, such as transcripts, do not transmit readily and scanned documents are not accepted.

May I apply for more than one scholarship at a time?

Yes. You are encouraged to apply for all scholarships for which you meet eligibility requirements.

May I receive awards from more than one scholarship?

Yes. It is possible, and acceptable, for you to receive multiple awards.

Are scholarships renewable?

Some. Each scholarship is different. Please refer to the Scholarship Fund Profile.

Will I be notified when my application is received?

No. You will not be notified of receipt. However, you will be contacted if we have a specific question about your application.

What happens after my application is received?

Once a deadline has passed and all applications are processed, a committee will review the applications and make award recommendations. In some cases, you may be called for a personal interview. Award recommendations are based on scholarship criteria, the availability of funds and the competitiveness of the applicant pool.

The review process may take several weeks and you will be notified within one week of the committee's decision.

How will I be notified if I receive a scholarship?

If you are selected as a scholarship recipient, you will be notified by mail with details of your award and the process for payment. If you are not selected for a scholarship, you will also be notified by mail. Because of the number of applications we receive, we ask that you not contact us to follow up.

Be assured that we will notify everyone as soon as possible after final decisions are made.

If I receive a scholarship, how do I claim it?

The award letter will give you specific instructions for claiming your award. In most cases you will have a Request for Payment form that must be signed and returned to The Dallas Foundation after you have registered for classes.

What are my chances for receiving a scholarship?

Scholarship awards are based on scholarship criteria, the availability of funds and the competitiveness of the applicant pool. These factors change with every funding cycle and some years are more competitive than others. Please note that meeting minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding and the reason for not receiving an award may be as simple as lack of funding.

May I contact the donors who provided the funds for my scholarship?

Yes! We absolutely want you to send a thank-you note that we can share with the founder of the fund. This is the best way for the donor to understand how important the scholarship is to the recipients. [Thank you letter example](#) (.docx)

When is the best time to start looking for scholarships?

The sooner the better. Searching for scholarships does take time so it is a good idea to start early and search often. You can start researching as early as your junior year in high school, but most scholarships require that you be at least a graduating high school senior before applying. You should also assume that most deadlines are in early spring so decisions can be made and applicants notified before school starts in the fall.

Eligibility requirements and deadline dates may vary from year to year, so be sure to revisit sites and review the details frequently.

Do I need to wait until I am accepted for admission before I apply for scholarships?

No. You can apply for scholarships while making final decisions about your education. However, you will have to be admitted and enrolled before most scholarships providers will pay an award.

Do I need to submit a FAFSA to be eligible to apply for scholarships?

No. However, some scholarships are awarded based on financial need so it is helpful to have a FAFSA on file. You will increase your eligibility if that information is available to scholarship providers.

What about the scholarship search services? They make it sound easy and often guarantee finding scholarships that I would qualify for.

Beware of any scholarship search service that guarantees results, especially for a fee. The scholarship process is highly competitive, so no one can guarantee that you will receive a scholarship.

Do you have any tips for applying for scholarships?

Pay close attention to scholarship application deadlines. Use a calendar, make a schedule for yourself and stick to it. Applications submitted past the deadline are usually not considered.

- Gather application materials early — give yourself plenty of time to complete each step. Applications that have been rushed look sloppy and incomplete applications probably won't be accepted.
- Don't ignore small awards. Even these can add up!
- Prepare your resume and keep it updated- this is a good way to outline your thoughts and show your activities and achievements.
- Think carefully about who should write your letters of recommendation. Choose people who can be specific about your strengths as well as your ability to overcome your weaknesses.
- In your essays, let your personality shine through. Present your ideas in a focused, thoughtful and meaningful manner. Write in a natural style and support your ideas with specific examples.
- Proofread your essays and applications. Ask friends, teachers or parents for feedback. Errors or poor writing skills will have a negative effect.
- Double check the list of required attachments and be sure you have included everything.
- Keep a copy of everything you submit!
- If you are notified that you have received a scholarship made possible by a specific donor, send a thank-you note to the donor. Also, if appropriate, keep the donor informed of your progress.