

How to: Apply for a Scholarship

Online Scholarship Application System:

Scholarship information on our website will be updated and made available online in January of each year. All scholarship applications must be completed using our online system, and must be submitted **no later than Friday, March 3, 2017 at 4:00 pm**. Students will not need to make multiple copies of application materials, and school administrators will be able to submit transcripts electronically. However, the online application system will require students to answer more questions in order to determine their eligibility for each scholarship offered. We highly recommend every applicant review the **Frequently Asked Questions** and **Scholarships by School** before proceeding to the **Scholarship Application System**. (All web links are available under our Scholarship tab of our website)

Step 1:

Once you have gone to the scholarship application system you will need to create a new account that you will use while working on your application (which does not need to be completed in one sitting). It is suggested that you use YOUR OWN email address, and not a parent's email address. This will be the email address that the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation will use to contact students throughout the scholarship process.

Step 2:

Once you log onto the scholarship application system you will click on one of the following links (as it applies to your situation): Music Scholarship Application, Scholarship Application for Advanced Training/Return to Education, or Scholarship Application for Graduating Seniors. You will then be taken to that application.

Step 3:

You can now begin your application, remembering to save often. You must complete the following sections; *General and Personal Information, Education Information, School and Community Activities, Academic Honors, Work Experience, References, and Academic Information Request to Guidance Counselor Request Section.*

Step 4:

Once you have completed the above sections you can start on the available scholarships sections. Each scholarship will include the scholarship name, eligibility criteria, and preferences. You must read EACH scholarship information and choose whether or not you are eligible for that scholarship. If you choose yes, you may be required to provide more information, such as a short essay or further yes or no questions.

Step 5:

The final step is to electronically sign to acknowledge that your application information is true and accurate. **All sections must be completed in order for you to submit your application.**

Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

When may I apply for a scholarship?

Scholarship information on our website will be updated and made available online in January of each year. 2017 scholarship applications must be submitted online through the Community Foundation's Scholarship Application System no later than **Friday, March 3, 2017 at 4:00 pm.**

Where do I submit a scholarship application?

All applications will be completed online using our **Scholarship Application System**. Students will not need to make multiple copies of application materials, and school administrators will be able to submit transcripts electronically. However, the online application system will require students to answer more questions in order to determine their eligibility for each scholarship offered. No faxed, emailed, or mailed applications will be accepted.

Does it cost anything to apply for a scholarship?

No, there is no cost to apply. Scholarships from legitimate sources should not require a fee to apply for or to receive an award.

What kinds of questions will I be asked?

The online application system is divided into multiple sections: general information, education information, school and community activities, academic honors, work experience, references, available scholarships, and transcript request.

Do I have to complete the application in one sitting?

No, you may use your email address and password to return to your application at any time until the deadline. We recommend you save your work often while filling out the online application, though, as the system will time out after 10 minutes of inactivity and you'll need to log in again.

Must I live in Isabella County to apply for a scholarship?

The vast majority of scholarships offered through the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation are intended to be received by students graduating from schools located in Isabella County or individuals who reside in Isabella County. A few of our scholarship funds were established by donors with interests outside of Isabella County and are available to students in those communities. Visit the [Scholarships by school section](#) of our website to review those that are available to students attending high schools outside of Isabella County. (NOTE: This has not yet been updated for 2017 scholarships available)

How much competition is there for scholarships offered through the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation?

Generally, one out of three individuals who submits an application receives a scholarship. Regardless of grade point average, career field or financial situation, there is likely a scholarship for which any graduating senior of an Isabella County School could submit a competitive application. Please take the time to review the criteria related to each scholarship to determine the ones for which you are a qualified candidate. The criteria of these scholarships may be very specific and limit the number of potential applicants to a few individuals, or the criteria may be very broad and allow any graduating senior from an Isabella County High School to apply. You should not submit applications for scholarships unless you fit the criteria for that particular scholarship.

How should I select reference providers?

Choose reference providers who can attest to your accomplishments and attributes as you've described them in your scholarship application and essay(s). Consider teachers, coaches, employers, or other adults who know you well. Generally, the best reference providers have known you for more than one year, are enthusiastic about your candidacy for the scholarship(s), and have been asked in advance to serve as a reference. Do not assume someone will provide a positive reference. It is important to ask reference providers, in advance of submitting a scholarship application, if they are willing to be contacted about your candidacy. Make sure to list on the application the telephone number at which the reference provider prefers to be contacted.

How much is each scholarship worth?

Scholarship amounts vary based on endowed fund growth, duration of investment, and donor wishes. Each fund web page lists the dollar amount of the current year's scholarship. (Not yet available) Not every scholarship is offered every year.

With what expenses may scholarships assist?

Most scholarships may only be used for direct educational expenses such as tuition, fees, books and supplies and in some cases, room and board. Please refer to each scholarship's guidelines for information about how the funds may be used.

Where can I go to school with these scholarships?

Most of the scholarships are for students attending accredited two or four year colleges and universities. However, some scholarships may be used for vocational and technical schools or adult education programs. Please refer to each scholarship's guidelines for more details.

What is the process for selecting scholarship recipients?

The Community Foundation's Scholarship Committee reviews all applications. These volunteers first determine if an applicant meets the criteria established by the founder(s). Once eligibility is determined, these volunteers review the applications based on the preferences established by the founder(s). The Scholarship Committee recommends applicants to the Board of Trustees, who then approves all scholarship awards. In general, a single individual should receive no more than one scholarship from the Community Foundation. If a student is the highest ranked candidate for more than one scholarship, he or she will receive the highest valued scholarship. In the event that no other applicants are eligible for the lower valued scholarship, a student may receive more than one scholarship.

How and when will scholarship recipients be notified?

Scholarship recipients will be notified by email and/or mail in late-April. Shortly thereafter, a list of all scholarship recipients will be posted on the Community Foundation's website. The letter notifying scholarship recipients will also contain an invitation to attend the Foundation's annual Scholarship Reception taking place on May 23, 2017. At this event, scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to meet the founders who established the scholarship they are receiving. This is considered a "must attend" event for the scholarship recipient who may bring two guests. If the scholarship recipient absolutely cannot attend, an immediate family member is expected to represent the scholarship recipient.

How and when will the scholarship be sent to the educational institution?

Scholarship recipients will be asked to fill out a form indicating where to send scholarship funds. Scholarship payments will be mailed directly to the educational institution. **The Community Foundation does not issue scholarship payments to students or their parents.** Scholarship payments are made contingent upon the submission of all required and requested documentation and compliance with all eligibility requirements.

Are scholarships taxable?

For most students, a scholarship used for tuition, fees, books, supplies and essential equipment is usually not taxable. Scholarship funds that are used for room and board may be taxable. Please consult a tax professional if you have questions about your scholarship award.