



Scholarship Application FAQs

Organization Background

What is the Stanislaus Community Foundation?

We are a place-based public charity created by and for a specific region of people. We house approximately 150 unique charitable funds set up by individuals, families, corporations, public and nonprofit agencies. Since 2002, Stanislaus Community Foundation has provided over \$15 million in grants and scholarships within our region. Whether established to honor or memorialize a loved one, recognize a specific academic institution, or to support a particular field of study, Stanislaus Community Foundation Scholarship Funds provide benefits to students that impact their lives and our community today and for future generations.

What types of scholarships are offered by/through Stanislaus Community Foundation?

Stanislaus Community Foundation awards needs-based scholarships (based on financial need) and merit-based scholarships (based on some type of achievement such as grades or extracurricular activities). You can visit our [webpage](#) for a list of scholarship funds.

Scholarship Eligibility and Requirements

What do I need in order to apply?

- **Internet access** on a computer or on a mobile device.
- An **e-mail address** that you check regularly. You'll need an email address for your college applications, as well.
- **High school transcripts** (official or unofficial) that show your GPA. Ask your counselor or school registrar if you are unsure about where or how to get your transcripts. We ask that you upload a clear, legible file. Photos taken on digital devices, such as cell phones, are fine if they are readable.
- Your [FAFSA Submission Summary](#). This available *after* you submit your [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA). For instructions on how to view your FAFSA Submission Summary, click [here](#).
 - You will be asked to provide the **Student Aid Index (SAI)** amount shown on your FAFSA Submission Summary on your scholarship application. Your SAI is an index number that college financial aid staff use to determine how much financial aid you would be eligible for if you were to attend their school. The information you report on your FAFSA form is used to calculate your SAI. We use the SAI amount to determine eligibility for our needs-based scholarships, and we weigh it with other variables for our merit-based scholarships.
 - If you are a DACA recipient, please visit [California Student Aid Commission](#) for additional information on the FAFSA.
 - If you parent(s) is unwilling to provide their financial information, or to learn more about how parent information is used, click [here](#).

Can I apply for a scholarship if I am undocumented?

You can apply for scholarships at SCF if you, or your parent(s), are undocumented. We do not ask for social security numbers on our application. For more information on financial aid for undocumented students, please click [here](#).



Do I need to be a resident of Stanislaus County to apply for scholarships?

For most scholarships, you need to be a resident of Stanislaus County and be enrolled at certain high schools within county lines. There are a few scholarships, however, that you may be eligible to apply for despite living in a different.

Do I need a letter of recommendation?

No. We removed this requirement to make the application process easier for you.

Can I apply if I'm not a straight-A student with a lot of extra-curricular activities?

Definitely! We have many kinds of scholarships for many kinds of students. We also have needs-based scholarships, which are primarily based on financial need. You may click [here](#) for a list of our scholarship funds.

Does it cost money to apply for these scholarships?

There is no cost associated with the application.

Application and Evaluation

Where do I apply for a scholarship?

We use an online application for our scholarships. You can apply [online here](#).

What do I do if I forgot my Smarter Select password?

Click the "forgot my password" link on the login page. An email will be sent to you detailing how to reset your password.

Can I apply for/receive multiple scholarships?

Yes. We use a universal application that will match you with scholarships you are eligible for. Once you've been notified of which scholarships you can apply for, you can apply to as many or as few as you'd like. To see a full list of our scholarships, please visit our scholarship's [webpage](#).

How is my application evaluated?

Each application is evaluated and scored according to a rubric by two or three people. We average the scores and then meet to discuss why each evaluator scored the applications as they did. We try to make the best decisions based on the information you provide in your application. This means that the more detail you provide in responses, the better picture we can get of you.

Is there an interview involved in the scholarship selection process?

We do not have interviews in our selection process.

When is the scholarship application due?

Friday, March 29th, 2024 by 11:59pm

Award and Post-Award

When will I be notified if I am chosen for an award?

Students will be notified of our decisions via e-mail by early-mid May 2024.



What do I do after I've been awarded a scholarship?

Additional steps will need to be taken by you to claim a scholarship offer from Stanislaus Community Foundation. The notification email from Stanislaus Community Foundation will detail the steps, but in general you will need to complete and submit an online "claim" form in which you will attach a thank you letter and proof of full-time enrollment.

Where do I submit my documents?

All documents are to be submitted electronically. If you are chosen for an award, you will receive the link for uploading.

Can I use my scholarship for expenses other than tuition?

Yes. If tuition and fees are paid, our scholarships may be applied to books, rent, or any other expense associated with the total cost of attendance at your campus for the specified year. You must contact your school's financial aid office to discuss alternative ways of using your scholarship money.

Is the scholarship check mailed to me or go to my school?

We send all scholarship checks to your school's financial aid office.

Is my scholarship renewable?

While we do offer some renewable scholarships, not all scholarships are renewable. Renewable scholarships are contingent on a student maintaining a GPA above or equal to 2.0 and remaining enrolled full-time.

Will my scholarship be affected if I transfer colleges or universities?

- If you won a scholarship that was specific to a school and you are no longer attending that school, you may lose your award.
- If you won a "Stanislaus Futures" scholarship and you transfer schools, your award size is subject to change (students attending a UC receive up to \$2,200; students attending a CSU or other four-year institution receive up to \$2,000; and students attending a community college receive up to \$1,000).

Do I need to pay back my scholarship?

No. A scholarship, much like a grant, is a financial gift that does not need to be paid back.

Contact Information

Who do I contact if I have questions about scholarships?

Please contact Scholarship Coordinator, Jessica Tapia, at jtapia@stanislauscf.org

What is SCF's mailing address?

Stanislaus Community Foundation
100 Sycamore, Suite 200
Modesto, CA 95354

What is SCF's phone number?

(209) 576-1608