

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIPS

Stclairfoundation.org/scholarships

## GENERAL TIPS

**Only apply if you are eligible.** Carefully read the pre-qualifying questions and answer them honestly. This will generate a list of scholarships for which a student is eligible. Most CFSCC awards are only open to residents of St. Clair County.

**Proofread your work!** Especially responses to the essay questions. Check grammar and spelling. Ask a parent, friend or teacher to proofread your application. Use the step-by-step booklet and instructions on the website to ensure proper completion of your application.

**Watch deadlines!** Financial aid offices and scholarship providers stick to them. Missing deadlines means missing opportunities for financial support. CFSCC portal closes 3/31/24.

**Click submit.** The submit button will only appear after all required uploads are completed. Ask people for recommendation letters or forms well in advance of the deadline. It should be someone who knows you well – employers, leaders of community organizations you are involved with, coaches or club leaders. Do not ask family.

## RESPONDING TO THE NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

**These questions help the selection committees get to know you.** Be sure to share with us your unique story – this is your chance to advocate for yourself, your education and your journey. The selection committees review more than 200 applications each year – tell us something about yourself that will make you stand out from other applicants.

**The application includes the following questions** (250-500 words each):

1. What are your college/career plans? What inspired you to follow this path?
2. Your choice of one of the following :
  - The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback or failure. How did it affect you and what did you learn from the experience?
  - What is the bravest thing you have ever done? Why did you do it and what did it teach you about yourself?
  - If you could change one thing about anything, what would it be and why?
3. Your choice of one of the following :
  - If you met someone for the first time what would you like to have them remember about you?
  - What have you done unselfishly for someone else or your community in recent years?
  - Discuss an accomplishment, event or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others?

## HOW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE CONSIDERED

Each of our scholarship funds have varying criteria (financial need, leadership & community involvement, high school or college attending, field of study, etc.), but overall you should keep the following in mind when completing your application:

**Special Circumstances** – Applications are confidential. If you've overcome obstacles or faced unusual circumstances be sure to include those in your application. Maybe you've battled personal or health issues or are working significant hours on top of going to school – let us know!

**Financial Need** – Student Aid Index (previously listed as EFC) as listed on your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) helps determine need along with other information requested on the application.

**Academics** – Some scholarship awards look for a competitive GPA and test scores, while some look at what you're planning to study after high school and what school you're planning to attend.

**Leadership & Community Service** – For awards including this as the criteria, it's important to include any leadership roles and service you've done within your community, school, church or other opportunities.

**Community  
Foundation**  
of St. Clair County

Scholarship Application Portal:  
Open 1/8/2024 - 3/31/2024

Questions? Contact Jessica Flann  
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