

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 short answer 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. The scholarship portal closes 3/17/25.

Click submit. The submit button will only appear after all required uploads are completed. If you are supplying a letter of recommendation be sure to ask for it 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 Short Answer 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 :

- Describe a day in your life outside of school hours, whether that is high school or college.
- What is your favorite tradition or cultural practice, and why is it important to you?
- If you could interview a historical/public figure, who would it be and what would you ask them?

3. Your choice of one of the following :

- Share a time when you failed at something. What did you learn from this experience?
- Describe a time when you set a goal for yourself and worked hard to achieve it. What strategies did you use?
- If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

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 (SAI) as listed on your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) helps to 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 12/8/2024-3/17/25

Questions? Contact Jessica
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