



scholarships

Scholarship availability

Scholarships are available for:

- Students attending college for the first time after earning a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Students who have attended LLCC or another post-secondary institution and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Scholarship eligibility

The following requirements apply to all LLCC Foundation scholarships unless the scholarship donor has requested other eligibility requirements.

- Applicants must have primary residence in LLCC District #526 and be a United States citizen.
- Applicants must meet the scholarship criteria established by the donor.
- Most scholarships have a minimum required grade point average (GPA) based on a 4.0 scale and a minimum number of LLCC credit hours that must be completed each semester.
- Applicants submitting a complete application are considered for all scholarships for which they are eligible.

General scholarship information

- Scholarship awards are first used for tuition and fees; some scholarships also provide for books and other related educational expenses.
- Scholarships are not transferable to other schools.
- Students may hold scholarships from outside organizations in addition to a Foundation scholarship.

The scholarship application period for the 2023-2024 academic year will be open December 1, 2022.

Apply online at www.llccfoundation.org/scholarships

Application deadline: March 1, 2023



LINCOLN LAND
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Frequently asked questions about LLCC Foundation scholarships

How do I apply for an LLCC Foundation scholarship?

New students: First, you will apply to LLCC. After you receive your LLCC acceptance email, you will be given an LLCC email account to activate. Once you have activated your LLCC email, you will be ready to enter the application at www.llccfoundation.org/scholarships, clicking Apply Now and sign-in using your LLCC email and password.

Current students: Visit www.llccfoundation.org/scholarships, click Apply Now and enter your LLCC email and password.

Do I reside in LLCC District #526?

You must reside in LLCC District 526 or meet the residency qualifications for in-district tuition rates to apply for Foundation scholarships. If you are uncertain about your residency, check the LLCC catalog, your property tax bill or voter's registration card. For questions, please contact the LLCC Admissions, Records and Registration Office at 217-786-2992.

Will I have to pay back a scholarship?

Scholarships are made possible by generous community businesses, organizations and individuals who are invested in helping LLCC students succeed. Scholarships are a gift and do not have to be repaid.

Do I have to be a full-time student to apply?

No, there are scholarships available for both full-time and part-time students.

Do I have to be a top student to get a scholarship?

Almost all LLCC Foundation scholarships have a minimum required grade point average (GPA) based on a 4.0 scale. Our scholarships range from a 2.00 GPA to a 3.25 GPA. Some scholarships do not require a minimum GPA, but may have other criteria.

What makes a scholarship application complete?

An application is complete when all of the following have been submitted on or before the deadline:

- Personal statement
- Two recommendations
- High school transcript, college transcript or GED scores
- Completed, verified and submitted application

Why is a personal statement important?

The purpose of the personal statement is to give you an opportunity to tell us important things about yourself that are not addressed or apparent in the application. In making these decisions about scholarships, we want to consider your personal attributes and gain some sense of who you are; your experiences, accomplishments, and a variety of qualities such as motivation, self-discipline, leadership, commitment to others, your intended field of study and your career goals.

Who should complete the two required recommendation forms?

We suggest recommendations come from individuals who are familiar with your educational goals/career plans and can rate your character, such as a teacher, guidance counselor, clergy or employer. Recommendations should NOT be from family members or friends.

Do I have to submit my high school transcript again if I already submitted to the LLCC Admissions Office?

Yes, your scholarship application is not complete unless your high school transcript is submitted to the LLCC Foundation. High school seniors-attach the most recent version of your transcript that reflects 7 semesters (freshman-first semester of senior year).

What if I graduated from high school a long time ago (or from an out-of-state high school) and can't get the High School Certification form and transcript submitted?

You will not be eligible to be considered for most scholarships because we will not have documentation of your high school GPA. We suggest you do well in your LLCC classes and apply next year as a continuing college student. Your LLCC GPA will be considered for eligibility.

Who chooses the scholarship recipients?

Recipients are selected by a committee of representatives from LLCC faculty, staff and the Foundation Board.

How will I know if I have been awarded a scholarship?

All applicants submitting a complete application will be notified regarding their status of eligibility and awarding by the **2nd week of May** via their LLCC email accounts. Scholarship recipients are emailed a contract that they must review and sign/accept prior to it being added to their LLCC financial aid account. If you do not reply/respond to the LLCC Foundation scholarship email that contains your scholarship contract within 2 weeks, your scholarship will be void and re-award to a scholarship alternate.

ASKING FOR REFERENCES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

CULTIVATE ACADEMIC RELATIONSHIPS

What does this mean?

- Actively participate in class.
- Speak with teachers during office hours.
- Demonstrate to your teachers that you are a professional student.

CONSIDER WHO TO ASK

Does this teacher know my strengths and experiences within the classroom?



- Have I always acted professionally and ethically in this teacher's course?
- Can this teacher comment on my academic development?
- Have I done well in this teacher's course?

GIVE THE WRITER PLENTY OF TIME

You want your recommendations to be well-considered. This cannot be done two days before your application is due.

- Ask approximately **one month** before your recommendation is needed.



PREPARE INFORMATION FOR YOUR REFERENCES

The best references are the most specific to you and the position you are applying for. Include:

- Information about the opportunity for which you're applying
- Why it's important to you
- Your activities and qualifications for the position
- A detailed explanation of how and when to submit the recommendation

SEND AN EMAIL

Sometimes it can be difficult to ask in person, so you can send an email.

- **BUT**, make sure to keep it short and to the point.



WHAT TO INCLUDE

Refresh her/his memory: Think of a positive interaction you had. Tell her/him which semester and class you were in.

Explain why you are asking her/him: Be specific. What skill, strength or experience can that teacher speak to?



- **Offer to meet with her/him to discuss details.** Offer to meet with your teacher during office hours to discuss your request.
- This is when you could give your teacher your additional information you've prepared.
- **Make sure you THANK HER/HIM!!!:**
- Not only should you thank your teacher for considering your request, you should also thank her/him after it's written. Handwritten thank-yous are always appreciated.

Give your teacher a way out: You are asking for a **strong** recommendation, so if this teacher can't provide it, you need to know. Do not ask, *can you write me a recommendation letter?* The answer is yes, but you want more than that: *Would you be able to write me a strong letter of recommendation for my [scholarship] applications?*

Dear Mr. Snape,

My name is Sarah Scheufele, and I took your Potions class my first year at Hogwarts. I frequently attended your office hours, as your class was challenging but enjoyable. I also enjoyed participating in the ethical discussions you proposed in class and felt they challenged my critical thinking skills.

I am currently in the process of applying for LLCC Foundation scholarships, and I am gathering letters of recommendation. Because I felt I grew as a student in your class and demonstrated my ability to engage in academic discussions, I chose to ask you. I hoped you could speak to my willingness and excitement about learning.

Would you be able to write a strong recommendation letter for my scholarship application? They are due March 1, 2023. I would be able to meet with you at your convenience if that would be helpful. I would also provide my personal statement, resume, and other materials you'd find beneficial. Thank you for taking the time to consider my request,

Sarah Scheufele
(217)786-4618

Be prepared for your teacher to decline. It's ok. It might mean s/he is too busy to write a well-written recommendation; it might mean your teacher doesn't feel like s/he can write a strong recommendation for you. You want your recommendations to be as strong as possible, so it's better to know now that s/he wouldn't be the best choice.

The Personal Statement

The personal statement allows a scholarship committee to learn more about you as an applicant. It allows you to "sell" your skills, abilities, and attributes.

From the LLCC Foundation website (<https://llcc.academicworks.com/opportunities>): "The purpose of the personal statement is to give you an opportunity to tell us important things about yourself that are not addressed or apparent on the application."

In 50 words or less, define yourself as a person.....
And as a student...?

What personal characteristics do you possess that would enhance your prospects for academic and professional success?

Helpful descriptive words for your personal essay
<http://www.bohoberry.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Values-Strengths.pdf>
<http://www.cytss.edu.hk/cytss97pyl/car/Testimonial%20Reference.pdf>
<http://www.goingmerry.com/blog/scholarship-essay-tips/>

What are your long-term goals and plans? What do you hope to gain from LLCC and beyond?

What is your biggest disappointment or regret? What did you learn about yourself and life?

What accomplishments are you most proud of? What have you had to dig in and work hard to achieve?

What sets you apart from other students? How are you uniquely you?

How would the scholarship monies benefit you? (Obviously more money is good, but more specifically.)

DOs

- Write in first person.
- Find a focus. This isn't a list or a rambling journal entry. Focus on a specific experience or characteristic and explain its importance in your current life. The scholarship committee wants to know YOUR story.
- Make your statement memorable. You want the committee to remember you.
- Be specific. Support the things you say about yourself and your experiences with specific examples. Show, don't tell.
- Proofread!! Ask someone to proofread! LLCC current students, take your personal essay to the LLCC Writing Center to assist.
- Be brief! Make sure you aren't repeating yourself.
- Start your essay early, and take time to write it well. Revise it, as well.

DON'Ts

- Don't use cliches. (Example: "I want to be a nurse in order to help people.")
- Don't make generalizations. (Example: "I just want to help people." Instead: "Education is essential to a strong future, and I'd like to teach high school in order to ensure that strong future for others.")
- Don't mention political or religious affiliation unless necessary.
- Don't make lists of accomplishments. Instead elaborate on them with examples and stories.
- Don't use Scrabble words just to use them.
- **Don't make up stories, exaggerate, or lie!**
- **Don't copy someone else's words or ideas!**