

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timeline for the scholarship process?

The Universal Application opens November 1 and is due by late February/early March every year. Additional scholarships are offered outside of the Universal Application, including the Andy Peek Livestock Scholarship, All Trade Services Scholarship, Shasta Sunflower Scholarship, and the Reach Higher Scholarship. Please visit the specific Scholarship Fund page for more information. Below is a timeline of what happens after the application deadline (some dates may change).

Late February/March: CFNS staff review applications for completeness and to confirm eligibility. We will reach out to students regarding any missing documents.

March-May: Scholarship selection committees review eligible applications and convene to select recipients.

May-June: As committees make decisions, CFNS staff contact recipients and update application statuses in the online scholarship portal.

July-November- Once the electronic Acceptance form and proof of enrollment is submitted, scholarship payments are sent directly to the financial aid office of the accredited college, university, or trade school you designated.

Who is eligible to apply for a Community Foundation Scholarship?

Every scholarship fund has its own unique eligibility requirements. Students of all levels who are seeking post-secondary education are encouraged to apply – from **graduating high school seniors, current college students, trade students, to graduate students!**

You can view all these opportunities and eligibility criteria online on our scholarship page <https://cfnorthstate.org/grant/scholarships/>, and we encourage you to review our Scholarship Opportunities At-A-Glance document which summarizes all our active scholarships. A step-by-step guide is also available on our website to assist you in learning how to navigate the online Universal Application Portal system. Should you still have questions, please call 530-244-1219 or email us at info@cfnorthstate.org.

How many opportunities are available through the Universal Application?

Over 40 unique scholarship opportunities are housed within the Universal Application. The first step of the application is an eligibility question form to match you to scholarships that are right for you!

Where can I find the Universal Application?

The Universal Application can be found on the Community Foundation of the North State's main Scholarship webpage at <https://cfnorthstate.org/grant/scholarships/> or on any scholarship fund page.

Can I win more than one scholarship?

Yes.

Do my transcripts need to be official?

No. You can obtain an official transcript from your school or submit unofficial copies. The transcript must include your name, the name of your school, and ALL of your completed coursework to date as well as your term and cumulative GPA.

How do I check the status of my application?

You can see all the opportunities you've been matched to and the status of your application for each opportunity on your Dashboard. Application Status can be viewed under each scholarship name next to **Decision**. This field can say Undecided, Abandoned, Approved, or Denied. Applicants are encouraged to check their portal every few weeks from April to June as selection committees convene. Awardees and non-awardees will be notified via email as soon as committees make selections.

If I receive a scholarship, when and how will I be notified?

The Community Foundation will notify all applicants via email approximately three (3) months following the application deadline (May/June). We also work with our local high schools so that graduating high school seniors can be notified during their school's senior awards night.

Why does it take so long for me to hear back about my scholarship application?

We receive hundreds of applications, so reviewing them takes time. Scholarship selection committees are made up of community volunteers and they need time to review the applications assigned to them.

If I receive a scholarship, how do I receive the funds?

If you have been selected for a CFNS scholarship, your notification email will contain instructions on how to claim the award. Once you have completed the Scholarship Acceptance process, **we will send funds directly to your college, university, or technical school**. We send one check for the full academic year. Many financial aid offices split the scholarship award evenly between fall and spring semesters. If you would like it to be applied/split differently, please let us know.

I've received scholarships, now how do I claim them?

To claim your scholarships, you'll need to log in to your Scholarship portal account. Once logged in and on your Applicant Dashboard, you'll see a section labeled "Follow-Up Forms." Click the "Edit" links to go into each form. Please be sure to complete all forms assigned to you.

What information do I need to complete my Follow-Up Forms?

Follow-Up Forms will ask you to provide the name of the school you are attending in the fall, your student ID number, and proof of enrollment. You will also be asked to provide a photo for our annual report (this is optional).

What do I do if I change schools?

If you switch schools in the middle of the academic year, please contact us. When possible, we will work to transfer the remainder of your scholarship to your new school.

Can I defer my scholarship if my education plans change?

Under specific circumstances, we are able to give students a one-year deferment. To find out if you are eligible for a deferment, please contact us at info@cfnorthstate.org.

What if I have additional questions? If you have a question that is not answered here, please contact us. We are happy to help!

info@cfnorthstate.org or 530-244-1219