



## Scholarship Program

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### Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria to be eligible for this scholarship:

- You must be at least a graduating high school senior.
- You must be an account holder of Ascend Federal Credit Union.
- You must plan to enroll or prove enrollment as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, technical or trade school in the next academic school year.

*All family members of Ascend Federal Credit Union's officials and employees are excluded from eligibility.*

### When is the deadline?

March 1, 2012

### What are the details of the award?

- Up to 10 non-recurring scholarships will be awarded annually.
- Applicants may reapply each year as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- The award amount is \$1,000.
- The scholarships will be applied to tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for course load.
- The educational institution must be an accredited college, university, technical or trade school in the United States.
- Students may transfer from one educational institution to another and retain the award.

### What are the selection criteria?

- An independent selection committee will evaluate the applications and select the winners.
- The committee will consider:
  - Financial need

- Community involvement
- Essay content
- Academic achievements and records

### **I have several potential school choices. Which one should I list on the application?**

You should list your first choice on the application. If you are chosen to receive an award, it will be your responsibility to make certain ISTS is aware of your final school choice so that your check can be issued accordingly.

### **How do I make changes to my application?**

- Visit [ascendfcu.org](http://ascendfcu.org)
- Roll over Member Services, Youth Accounts and then click Scholarship Program.
- From the Scholarship Program page, click the application link.
- Login to your account.
- Click on each tab and make changes to the necessary section(s), click “next page” to move forward or click on the next tab you would like to complete.

### **How do I check the status of my application?**

- Visit [ascendfcu.org](http://ascendfcu.org)
- Click the application link on the Scholarship Program page.
- Click the Home tab and check your status.

### **After the program deadline, you will only be able to update your address. To update this information:**

- Visit [ascendfcu.org](http://ascendfcu.org)
- Click the application link on the Scholarship Program page.
- Login to your account.
- Click the Profile tab.
- Update the address and it will update in your application.

### **How and when will I receive notification?**

- Notifications are sent approximately two months past the scholarship deadline.
- Winner and non-winner notifications will be sent via email.
  - Please add [info@applyists.com](mailto:info@applyists.com) to your email address book or “safe senders list” so these important emails are not sent to your junk mail folder.
  - **Do not ‘opt out’ of any email sent from [info@applyists.com](mailto:info@applyists.com) as you may not receive vital information regarding your scholarship applications.**

*Note: Your email address will only be used to communicate with you about your scholarship applications or other opportunities administered by ISTS for which you may be eligible to apply. We will not provide your email address to any third-parties. Decisions of the selection committees are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.*

### **What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?**

- You must enroll or prove enrollment in an accredited college, university, technical or trade school.
- You must deliver your scholarship check(s) to the proper office at your institution.

### **How and when are checks issued?**

- Checks will be made payable to the educational institution only.
- Checks will be mailed to each recipient’s mailing address as entered on the application.
- Checks will be issued in August.
- It is the recipient’s responsibility to notify ISTS should the check not arrive within 30 days of the issue date.

### **Where and when should I send my supporting documents?**

- You may upload your required documents online. If you are unable to upload them, mail your supporting documents following the instructions printed from your online application. If you do not follow the instructions exactly, your application may not be considered.
- Your submission must be complete by March 1.

### **Are scholarships taxable?**

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition or textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against your scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax advisor for more guidance.

### **Program Administration**

To assure complete impartiality in selection of winners and to maintain a high level of professionalism, Ascend Federal Credit Union's Scholarship Program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc., a firm that specializes in managing sponsored scholarship programs.

### **Questions**

For additional information regarding Ascend Federal Credit Union's Scholarship Program, contact ISTS by email at [contactus@applyists.com](mailto:contactus@applyists.com) or by phone at (855) 670-ISTS.