



## Scholarships: Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who can apply for scholarships through Stark Community Foundation?**

Most of our scholarship opportunities are for students pursuing a degree in higher education who either reside or attended high school in Stark or Carroll county. Students must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited institution in the United States. While most of our scholarship opportunities are for 2- or 4-year undergraduate programs, some are for graduate or technical programs.

### **Where does the money come from?**

Scholarships at Stark Community Foundation are endowment funds created by generous individuals, families and businesses in the community. These scholarships are private dollars and are distributed by a selection committee and at the discretion of Stark Community Foundation's Board of Directors.

### **When is the deadline to apply for scholarships?**

The application deadline for scholarships using the General Application is May 1. Scholarships with a different deadline will be listed separately and require an additional application.

### **Are scholarships renewable?**

Some of our scholarships are renewable. *This means that you may reapply for it again next year – however, this is not a guarantee that you will receive it every year.* All applicants who wish to renew are considered equally amongst every other candidate.

### **Is financial need mandatory for all scholarships?**

Many of our scholarships look for demonstrated financial need, but some are merit-based or open to all.

### **I submitted my General Scholarship Application. Now what?**

You will be automatically matched to scholarships for which you qualify. However, some of our scholarships require supplemental information. If you are recommended to apply for certain scholarships, this means you have met the initial eligibility check, but the scholarship requires you to submit supplemental information. After you submit your General Scholarship Application, you will see these additional scholarship opportunities on the Confirmation Page. To view which scholarship opportunities you have successfully applied for, check the Active Requests tab on the Applicant Dashboard.

### **Can references still submit a recommendation after the application deadline?**

No. Letters of recommendations must be uploaded by the application deadline in order for your application to be complete. It is your responsibility to follow up and encourage your references to submit their recommendation by the deadline.

**Who reads the applications and decides if I receive a scholarship?**

Each of our scholarships have their own selection committee, made up of volunteers designated by the donor. Your application responses are kept confidential and only shared with the committee members.

**When will I find out if I was selected to receive a scholarship?**

We do our best to collect the selection committees' decisions in a timely manner with the emphasis that you need to pay your tuition bill in order to register for classes. That said, most decisions could be official as early as June, while some could be in July. Award notifications will be sent by mail. You can view the status of your application(s) by checking the Active Requests tab on the Applicant Dashboard.

**What happens if I am selected to receive a scholarship?**

If you are selected for a scholarship, you will receive a letter in the mail. No further action is required from you and a check will be mailed to your school.

**When will my school receive my scholarship payment?**

Checks are typically distributed in late July/early August. If you are selected for a scholarship after that, the payment will be sent to your school as soon as possible.

**I was selected to receive a scholarship, but changed my mind on my college choice; what do I do?**

Please email [scholarships@starkcf.org](mailto:scholarships@starkcf.org) as soon as possible. Include your name, scholarship name, the college you indicated on your application, the college you have officially decided on and either the last four digits of your social security number or your new student ID number. Please note there is a \$30 fee for a last-minute change in institution. Make checks payable to Stark Community Foundation with Institution Change Fee in the memo line and mail to: Stark Community Foundation, 400 Market Avenue North, Suite 200, Canton, OH 44702.

**Can I use scholarship money to pay off my student loans?**

No. Scholarship funds cannot be used to pay for expenses already incurred.

**Can I use scholarship money for room and board?**

Our scholarships are designed to offset tuition expenses and generally cannot be used for room and board.

**I was not selected for a scholarship this year, even though I met the qualifications. Why?**

Being qualified for a particular scholarship does not guarantee you will receive it. The process is competitive, and each year we receive an increasing number of applications. Therefore, we cannot award scholarships to every deserving student. We encourage you to reapply each year.

**I was previously awarded a scholarship that was renewable. Why didn't I receive it this year?**

Renewable scholarships are *never* guaranteed, regardless of whether you reapply or maintain the requirements. Each year we receive an increasing number of applications with a limited amount of dollars to award. Therefore, we cannot award scholarships to every deserving student.

**If you have additional questions,  
email [scholarships@starkcf.org](mailto:scholarships@starkcf.org) or call 330-454-3426.**