



## Scholarships: Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who can apply for a scholarship through Stark Community Foundation?**

Scholarship awards are available to students pursuing a degree in higher education. Most are for students who reside or attended high school in Stark County. You must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited institution in the United States. Most of our scholarship opportunities are for 2- or 4-year undergraduate programs, but some are for graduate or technical programs.

### **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.

### **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. Therefore, we cannot award every deserving student.

### **What are the application deadlines?**

Most of our scholarships are due April 1 with a few exceptions. Visit [starkcf.academicworks.com](http://starkcf.academicworks.com) for details.

### **I clicked "Submit" on my general application. Now what?**

You may be automatically matched to some scholarships for which you qualify. However, some of our scholarships require additional questions. 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 additional information. To view which opportunities you have successfully applied for, visit your AcademicWorks account.

### **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 May, while some could be in late August. Award notifications will be sent by mail and declines by email. Your opportunity status(es) on AcademicWorks will also be updated.

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

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

**What happens if I am selected for an award?**

If you are selected for an award, 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 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 and the college you have officially decided on. Please note there is a \$30 fee for a last-minute change in institution so that we can request the money back and forward it to the new school.

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

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

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

Generally, our scholarships are designed to offset tuition expenses and cannot be used for room and board.

**Where does the money come from?**

Scholarships at Stark Community Foundation are endowments 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.

**Do I have to live in Stark County to be eligible for a scholarship?**

Most of our scholarships are intended for Stark County residents and/or students who attended a high school in Stark County. Some consider individuals from adjacent counties. Please visit the scholarship descriptions online to see if you may qualify. \*If you go to school outside Stark County, but permanently reside in Stark County during breaks, please use your Stark County address on your application.

**Can references still submit a recommendation after April 1?**

References are still able to upload their recommendations for you after the April 1 deadline. It is your responsibility to follow up and encourage them to submit their recommendation as soon as they can.

**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 every deserving student. We encourage you to reapply each year.