Common Scholarship Application (CSA) Overview

January 18 – March 8th @ 2pm PST
The Community Scholarship Program

- San Diego Foundation will offer scholarship funds through the platform **Foundant**
- All applications are audited for eligibility by staff and read/reviewed by volunteer committees
- Most heavily weighted evaluation criteria (grades, extracurriculars, financial need, etc.) varies by fund
- Primary program goal is to award to applicants for whom a scholarship would make the greatest impact
Accessing the CSA

- Visit our website @: https://www.sdfoundation.org
- A link will be on the Common Scholarship Application page for students to click and redirect them to Foundant to register.
Accessing the CSA

San Diego Foundation

Logon

Email Address*:
melanikm@sdfoundation.org

Password*:

Log On  Create New Account

Forgot your Password?

Welcome to the San Diego Foundation's Scholarship Portal.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password?" link to the left to reset your password.

Not Sure? If you think that you have already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact Scholarships@sdfoundation.org to receive your username.
San Diego Foundation has opened its 2023-24 Common Scholarship Application!

Our online application accesses more than 100 scholarship opportunities with awards ranging from $1,000 to more than $5,000. Some scholarships can be renewed for multiple years, helping offset the financial burden for often the student’s entire undergraduate career. Fill out one application and you will be matched to the scholarship opportunities that apply to you!

Our scholarships are open to:
- Graduating high school seniors
- Current college students (undergraduate or graduate)
- Adult re-entry students
- Students with financial need (includes middle income families)
- Students attending 4-year, community college or career/technical schools

*Please note:* Many of our scholarship opportunities include “Supplemental Questions” that are required after submitting the application. These required additional materials may include the following: Letter of Recommendation upload, transcript upload, additional essay, etc. All of those “Supplemental Questions” are due the SAME date and time as the Common Scholarship Application deadline: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 2 p.m. Please look at our 2023-2024 Community Scholarships Criteria - All Scholarship Opportunity Criteria with Supplemental Needs linked here to see all Common Scholarship Application opportunities including those that have these REQUIRED additional materials.

**IMPORTANT Additional Resources:**
- 2023-24 Community Scholarships Criteria - All Scholarship Opportunity Criteria with Supplemental Needs
- 2023-24 Blank CSA with Supplemental Questions
- Community Scholarships Program Flyer (English and Spanish)
- Tips for a Competitive Scholarship Application
- Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- California Student Aid (CA Dream Act)
- Frequently Asked Questions

For questions, email scholarships@sdfoundation.org or call 619-814-1343.

The deadline to complete the Common Scholarship Application and ALL Supplemental Questions are Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 2 p.m.
Starting the Application

Before Beginning

- Ensure that all requested academic, financial, and personal information is on hand (FAFSA or the CA Dream Act is a requirement) Please advise students to start their FAFSA or CA Dream Act asap
- Be willing to devote 3-4 hours to completing the form
- You can “save” and start where you left off. This application auto-saves as well.
Media Release

I hereby consent and authorize The San Diego Foundation to use and reproduce my name, biographical information, photograph, and video image in all forms of media including publications, advertising materials, videos, and the Internet (e.g. thank you videos to donors). I will make no claim of any kind. I understand I will not receive any compensation as a result of the use of my name, biographical information, photograph, and video image.

This consent and release may be revoked only in writing delivered to The San Diego Foundation. Any such revocation will apply only to materials to be distributed in the future and not to any materials already printed or otherwise created at the time of revocation.

I hereby warrant that I am of legal age and have the right to contract in my own name.
I am the parent/legal guardian of the applicant minor.
I nor my parent/guardian authorize The San Diego Foundation to use or reproduce my information.
As long as applicants fit the award criteria, demographic information like:
- Ethnicity
- Birth Date
- Citizenship Status do not factor into application score.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1st parent's highest education completed</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Some college, Associate's degree or career/technical certificate</td>
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<th><strong>Parent 1 Nationality</strong></th>
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<td>☐ Born in the United States</td>
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<th><strong>2nd parent's highest education completed</strong></th>
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<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
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<th><strong>Parent 2 Nationality</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Do you identify as a first generation college student?</strong></th>
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<td>First generation college students: students whose parents did not complete a four-year degree.</td>
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<th><strong>Do you identify as a first generation college student?</strong></th>
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<td>☒ Yes</td>
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<td>☐ No</td>
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<td>☐ Choose not to answer</td>
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<th><strong>Your military service</strong></th>
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<td>Never in military</td>
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<th><strong>Military family status</strong></th>
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<td>☐ Parent(s) never in military</td>
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<th><strong>Are you or have you been a part of a College Readiness program?</strong></th>
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<td>☐ Yes</td>
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<td>☐ No</td>
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Which of the following College Access programs have you participated in?

- Access Youth Academy
- Any Body Can Youth Foundation
- AVID
- Barrio Logan College Institute
- Cal-SIOP
- Cardinal Impact
- Casa de Armliead
- College Bound Program
- Compact for Success
- DETOUR
- Encuentros Academy
- Escondido High School AVID
- First Gen Scholars
- Girls Inc. of San Diego County
- HomeStart, Inc.
- International Rescue Committee
- Just in Time for Foster Youth
- LULAC
- MANA de San Diego
- Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee on Anti-Poverty of San Diego County, Inc.
- Monarch School Project
- Nativity Prep Academy
- Neighborhood House Association
- Ocean Discovery Institute
- One Step Beyond
- Project Ready
- Pro-Kids
- Promise2Kids
- Reality Changers
- San Diego Squared
- Step Up
- Students Without Limits (SWOL)
- Tenacity Nurturing Talent
- Terrell L. Bruce Memorial Fund
- The AIA Project
- The Blue Heart Foundation
- TRIO Upward Bound/SSS/McNair/Talent Search
- Urban Life Ministries
- Vahupa
- Yatta San Diego
- YMCA College Readiness Program
- Young and Prosperous Foundation
- "Have never participated in a College Access Program"

Other college access program:

Please type here if not listed above.

Are you or your parent(s) employed by any of the following?

- Casa de Manana
- Child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a member of the Retired Employees of SD County (RESDC)
- Children & grandchildren of active/deceased/retired or disabled employees of the deAnza Country Club
- The Santaluz Club
- Vista Irrigation District
- None of these apply

How did you find out about our scholarship awards?

- College (recruit, staff, college program or website, newspaper, etc.)
- College readiness program (barrio Logan College Institute, College Bound, Reality Changers, etc.)
- Foster youth (organization, CASA, social worker, etc.)
- High School (AVID, Naviance, Counselor, teacher, coach, etc.)
- Previous applicant or recipient of San Diego Foundation scholarship
- San Diego Foundation (website, email, presentation, etc.)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Website, book, newspaper, etc.
- Word of mouth (family, friend, church, internship, employer, etc.)
- Other

If "other" please let us know how you found out about our scholarships

Demographics Continued
Many high school applicants misreport school districts or use unofficial school names

Students who are unsure of their school district or official school name are encouraged to double-check online.
Current Academics Continued

High school cumulative GPA (UNWEIGHTED on 4.0 scale)*
Your GPA is required. If you are awarded a scholarship, we may verify your GPA from your transcript; if we cannot verify your GPA, you may forfeit your scholarship.

3.3

High school cumulative GPA (WEIGHTED with AP, IB and honors classes)

SAT Composite (superscore)
The SAT has two required parts (Mathematics and Reading & Writing), each scoring up to 800 points and adding up to a high score of 1600. You may use “superscores” by entering your highest score for each of those two sections from any test date.

ACT English
(1 to 36)

ACT Mathematics
(1 to 36)

ACT Reading
(1 to 36)

ACT Science
(1 to 36)

ACT Writing
(2 to 12)

List AP/IB/SAT Subject test names and scores (i.e., AP English = 4; SAT Chemistry = 620)

400 characters left of 400
Fall Educational Plans

Applicants should ensure that their prospective schools align with the scholarship criteria (i.e. high school dependent, arts-specific, ethnicity-specific). Similarly, intended major and career are integral to some awards.
Finances

The Student Aid Report (SAR) is part of the FAFSA/CA Dream Act and is required for the 2023-24 scholarship application.

Expected Family Contribution gives evaluators a better idea of an applicant’s level of financial need.

While not quantifiable, Other Financial Circumstances are carefully factored into evaluation.

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**Student Aid Report Upload**

Please upload a copy of your 2023-24 Student Aid Report (SAR), including your CA Dream SAR. Your file should contain ALL pages of your report and the name on your SAR should match the name on your application.

Select the file you want to attach using the upload button below. Once your file is selected, select the open button to save the file to your application.

Note: If you are an unaccompanied minor or otherwise unable to obtain a 2023-24 SAR by the deadline, please contact us at scholarships@sdfoundation.org.

The SAR lists your FAFSA information. If you have a FSA ID (username and password) and your FAFSA information has been processed, you can log in at fafsa.gov to view and print SAR information. This includes your CA Dream SAR which can be accessed by login into your CA Dream Act account at dream.csac.ca.gov. Note: You will receive a paper SAR if you file a paper FAFSA form and don't provide an email address.

**Maximum File Size:** 20MB, Accepted file types: .pdf, .jpg, .jpeg

Upload a file [12 MB allowed]

**Other Financial Circumstances**

If you have any financial circumstances or need(s) that are not evident from the financial information you are providing here, such as recent changes in finances, personal or family hardships, or other financial challenges, please briefly explain below:

My father lost his job in 2021. This was a hardship on my family as my sister had to take on a part-time job after school.
Finances continued

Financial Status

Independent applicants must meet at least ONE of these criteria:
- 24 years of age or older
- Graduate, medical or professional school student
- Married
- Have legal dependents other than your spouse, such as children
- Current or former member of the military
- Foster youth/ward of the court/under legal guardianship
- Unaccompanied homeless youth
- Emancipated minor
- Orphan (both parents deceased)

Dependent applicants do not meet ANY of these criteria.

For independent applicants, use YOUR information.
For dependent applicants, use YOUR PARENT(s)' information.

Family Members

Number of family members living in household in 2021, INCLUDING you*

# 4

Number of family members in household attending college in fall 2023, INCLUDING you*

# 2

List family members in household and the colleges they will attend in fall 2023 EXCLUDING you
(e.g., sister - UCSD; brother - SDSU; mother - Grossmont Community College)

Sister - San Diego City College
Extra-Curriculars, Community Service, and Work Experience

- Extra-Curriculars, Community Service, and Work Experience help evaluators understand an applicant’s sense of commitment to community.

- While Extra-Curriculars and Work Experience are measured by hours per week, Community Service is measured by total hours.

- One activity/job should not be used more than once across the three categories.

- Students have FOUR opportunities in each section to list their activities.
Personal Statements

• Effective Personal Statements echo Academics, Extra-Curriculars, Community Service, and/or Work Experience to show personality and build a cohesive narrative

• The best essays demonstrate how the applicant’s worldview and experiences have shaped their aspirations

• If possible, applicants should seek proofreaders before submitting essays
STOP! Read before you click submit:

- Just a reminder – this has been the San Diego Foundation Common Scholarship Application (CSA). Once you click ‘Submit’, you will get a Confirmation Page with a list of scholarship opportunities for which you are eligible and the ones which will ask for Supplemental Information (Required Additional Materials).
- Click “Continue”
- If you do qualify for a scholarship opportunity, after you click “Continue”, you can then click on each listed scholarship opportunity to request Letters of Recommendations, Work Verification Letters, Additional Essays, and any other Required Additional Materials.
- Click Save to hold your answers and come back to the application. Click Submit when you have completed the Required Additional Material(s) for that scholarship.
- Not all scholarships will have Required Additional Materials
- You MUST click Submit at the bottom of EACH supplemental page for the individual scholarship application to be considered complete.
- If you feel you should be eligible for any given scholarship opportunity after reading our Community Scholarships Criteria for Academic Year 2023-24, please email the San Diego Foundation at Scholarships@sdfoundation.org.

Thank you for your time and interest in applying to the San Diego Foundation’s 2023-24 Common Scholarship Application.

Due by 03/08/2023 02:00 PM PST.

Abandon Request  Save Application  Submit Application
Scholarship opportunities that students are eligible for are automatically submitted for the student.

Any scholarship opportunity that has Supplemental Materials (i.e. Letter of Recommendation Request, Transcript Upload, Additional Essay), will be able to complete those materials once they click “Continue” at the bottom of the Confirmation Page.
Supplemental Materials will start alphabetically by Scholarship Opportunity Name. The student can save and continue to the next Scholarship Opportunity OR they can click the “HOME” button at the top to see all Scholarship Opportunities they are eligible for and what Supplemental Materials are needed to complete.
Supplemental Materials Continued

Statuses:
• Submitted = Student has completed this scholarship opportunity.
• Assigned = Supplemental Materials are needed. Student will need to click “Edit Application” to Submit.

NOTE: ALL SUPPLEMENTALS ARE DUE MARCH 8th @ 2pm PST. We will not take any late materials.
Students who have a Scholarship Opportunity that requires a Letter of Recommendation Request have a template they can “COPY” and “PASTE” into the email body.
Letter of Recommendation - Supplemental

Dear Melanie,

I am applying for a scholarship through the 2023-24 Common Scholarship Application from the San Diego Foundation. I am writing to ask you to please submit a letter of recommendation/answer the recommendation questions on my behalf. The deadline for submitting is WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2023 @ 2PM. - San Diego Foundation will not accept any late letter of recommendations.

You will be receiving a separate email with a link to the recommendation form on my application.

Questions? Contact the San Diego Foundation’s Community Scholarships Team here: scholarships@sdfoundation.org.

Sincerely,
Emilio

The recommender will receive two emails:
1. Email from the student with request and deadline
2. Email from SDF with the link to upload LOR and the name of the Scholarship Opportunity the applicant is applying for.
All recommenders will have their own **dashboard** that hold all their **Third Party Requests**.

Please take note of the different **statuses** and the **Scholarship Opportunity** names.

All **Third Party Requests** are due **March 8th @ 2pm PST.**
San Diego Foundation
Common Scholarship Application Timeline

10 January and 11 January
Virtual Counselor Convening

18 January
Common Scholarship Application launches

8 March @ 2pm PST
(2:00 P.M.) - Common Scholarship Application closes (deadline for letters of recommendation)

April
Mid-May - TSDF and volunteer committees evaluate applications

Late May
Scholarship application numbers available to counselors upon request

June
All students are notified of awards
Achieve your Higher Education Dreams

In just one application, our Common Scholarship Application provides students access to more than 100 scholarship opportunities with awards ranging from $1,000 to more than $5,000. Some scholarships can be renewed for multiple years to help offset the financial burden for a student's entire undergraduate career.

In 2022, we awarded more than $3.5 million to over 900 students.

2023-2024 Common Scholarship Application Timeline

- Application available online: January 18, 2023
- Deadline to finish application: March 8, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. PST
- Applicants notified: By June 1, 2023

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Graduating high school seniors
- Current college students (undergraduate or graduate)
- Adult re-entry students
- Students with financial needs (includes middle-income families)
- Students attending four-year universities, community colleges or career/technical schools

Even if you’re not a straight-A star athlete or student body president, we have scholarship opportunities if you have:

- Commitment to your education
- Potential for success in college
- Minimum GPA of 2.6
- Participation in community service, extracurricular activities and/or work experience
- Current residence in San Diego County (for at least one year)
- Need of help to pay for school (including middle-income families)

- A completed FAFSA or CA Dream Act and Student Aid Report (SAR). This is necessary for all applicants. Recommendation: Please start ASFA as this information is needed to fill out the application. The 2021-2022 academic year for FAFSA opened October 1.

Resources

- Community Scholarships Criteria for Academic Year 2023-2024
- Community Scholarships Program Flyer (English and Spanish)
- 2023-2024 Blank CISA with Fundamentals Questions
- Tips for a Competitive Scholarship Application
- Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- California Student Aid (CA Dream Act)
- Frequently Asked Questions

Links

- FAQs
- Local Scholarships
- Community Scholarships Criteria
- Practice Application
- Tips for a Strong Application