



Scholarship Application Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I apply for a scholarship from Montana Community Foundation (MCF)?**
 - Visit mtcf.org/applications. Click on the orange "Apply Online" button. Create an account and take the eligibility quiz, carefully read, select and check all that applies to you.
- **What if a scholarship I know that I am eligible for does not show up on my dashboard?**
 - You can call or email the MCF Scholarship Manager at 406-4414946 or jstark@mtcf.org.
- **When is the application deadline?**
 - Midnight of the third Friday in March each year. (Technically 12 a.m. Saturday).
- **How many scholarships can I apply for?**
 - You can apply for as many scholarships as you qualify for, based on each individual scholarship criteria.
- **Do I have to submit an "official" transcript?**
 - No. We accept copies and "official" copies of transcripts. For high school transcripts, please make sure your grade levels are listed. For returning students, a copy of your transcript printed from your school portal is acceptable.
- **Can I submit a paper application?**
 - No, we only accept electronic applications through our online portal.
- **What if I can't remember the password to my account?**
 - You can go to the Foundant sign-in page and select the "forgot my password" link. Make sure you are using a correct email. You can also call Scholarship Manager (Jenny Lou Stark) at MCF to assist you.
- **What kind of attachments are accepted?**
 - The following attachments are generally accepted: .doc, .pdf, .jpg, .docx, .ppt, .gif, .xls, .pptx, .tiff, .xlsx, .zip, .bmp, .csv, .txt, .jpeg, .tif.
- **Who do I contact if I am having technical issues?**
 - You can contact MCF Scholarship Manager (Jenny Lou Stark) at jstark@mtcf.org or call 406-443-8313. If you are having issues with attachments, make sure to refer to the FAQ question about attachments and ensure you are using one of the accepted formats.
- **Can I submit paper letters of recommendation?**
 - No, an email request will be emailed to the recommender through the online application process.

- **How do I know if my college/university/school is accredited?**
 - Click a link below that includes the state where the school you plan to attend is located. Search for your school to see if it is accredited. Please search carefully as the name in the directory may be slightly different than what you may know it as.
 - [Northwest Commissions on Colleges](#) (Includes: Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington).
 - [Higher Learning Commissions](#) (Includes: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming).
 - [New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commissions on Institutions of Higher Education \(CIHE\) & Technical and Career Institutions \(CTCI\)](#) (Includes: Connecticut, Maine Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Overseas).
 - [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges](#) (Includes: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Extraterritorial).
 - [Western Association of Schools & Colleges \(WASC\) Senior College and University Commission](#) (Includes States: California, Hawaii, and the Pacific).
 - [Middle States Commission on Higher Education \(MSCHE\)](#) (Includes: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands).

- **Can I still receive the scholarship if I attend a school outside of Montana?**
 - Maybe. This depends on the criteria for each individual scholarship. For example, the T. Eugene Young Montana's Promise Scholarship gives preference to those applicants attending a university/college in Montana.

- **Do I have to be a full-time student?**
 - Each scholarship is different. Please check the individual scholarships criteria. A minimum of 6 credits is required.

- **Do I need to apply for FAFSA to receive an award?**
 - It depends, you will need to check the criteria for each MCF scholarship. More than half of the scholarships we offer are based on financial need and require you to attach FAFSA information.

- **Do I have to fill out a scholarship application for each scholarship or does one application cover them all?**
 - You will need to apply to each individual scholarship you qualify for. Each scholarship has some specific essay questions you will need to complete and submit.

- **Does MCF have scholarships for graduate students?**
 - Unfortunately, MCF does not provide graduate scholarships. The majority of scholarships we offer are for graduating seniors from Montana high schools.

- **How will I know the status of my scholarship application(s)?**
 - Please check your Foundant account under the “status” column to see the status of each application(s).

- **How will I be notified if I do or don’t receive a scholarship award?**
 - If you are awarded a scholarship, a letter and certificate will be mailed to your home address or will be presented to you at your school by your school counselor or by one of our staff. An email from our online portal will inform you if you didn't receive a scholarship award.

- **How do I know how much I been awarded?**
 - Please see your award letter(s)/Certificate(s) for your awarded amount(s).

- **How do I accept my award(s)?**
 - Instructions are provided in your award letter. You will need to submit student information such as student ID Number and the school you will be attending.

- **Is the scholarship award paid directly to me?**
 - No, the award is paid to the school you will be attending. You will need to submit your school information through the online portal. Please see your award letter for instructions.

- **When is my scholarship award paid to the school?**
 - For new students, on July 31st. Renewal scholarships are paid the first Friday in August.

- **Is my award paid all at once?**
 - No, it is standard for the financial aid office of your school to split the award between semesters or quarters.

- **Can my scholarship be transferred to another school?**
 - Yes. You will need to notify us. Contact Scholarship Manager (Jenny Lou Stark) @ 406-441-4946 or jstark@mtcf.org.

- **Can I defer my scholarship award to a later date?**
 - It depends. You will need to submit a letter of explanation and request to have your scholarship deferred. The scholarship fund advisors and committee will review your letter and we will then notify you of their decision.

- **If I receive an award, who do I send a “Thank You Letter” to?**
 - This information is provided in the award letter you’ll be sent. You can also send it to the Montana Community Foundation, PO BOX 1145, Helena, MT 59624 and we will pass it along for you. Please make sure you list the name of the scholarship(s) in the letter.

- **How do I re-apply for a renewable scholarship I was awarded?**
 - You will receive an email in mid-January from the MCF Scholarship Manager with a code for your renewable scholarship. Please visit mtcf.org/applications, click on the “Apply Online” button and follow the steps for creating an account. Type the code in search window and you should find a link to your scholarship. If you didn’t receive an email or can’t find your code, please contact the MCF Scholarship Manager.

- **How do I know if my scholarship is renewable or can I renew my scholarship?**
 - The award letter you receive will inform you if you received a 4-year renewable scholarship. There are a few scholarships that you can reapply to but need to check the criteria for each. Most of MCF scholarships are paid one time to freshmen entering into an accredited College/University. You are welcome to call the MCF Scholarship Manager if you have questions.

- **What is the deadline for my renewable scholarship?**
 - The rough deadline is September 30th of each year. If you want your scholarship to be paid by the Fall semester, please submit your renewal application by July 15th.

- **How will I be notified of my renewal scholarship?**
 - Renewal applications are available beginning January 1. A reminder email will be sent to you in February with information on how to re-apply (you can also see the FAQ question about re-applying for renewable scholarships). Please make sure we have your updated email address and notify the MCF Scholarship Manager of any changes.