



COLLIER
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

COLLIER SCHOLARS COMMON APPLICATION 2026

One application, multiple opportunities

Applying for CCF scholarships has never been easier!

By completing one online application, you'll be considered for 70+ scholarship opportunities from the Collier Community Foundation.

We have scholarships for students with a wide variety of ages, backgrounds, GPA's, areas of study, types of institutions, and levels of education. Selected awardees will be notified by May via email.

Application Opens:
Nov. 1, 2025

Application Closes:
Feb. 2, 2026, 4:59PM EST

Learn more
or apply at
collierccf.org



If you are interested in Technical/Vocational Fields and/or have any questions, please contact Laura Bidireanu or Deb Olson at 239-649-5000.

Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

STUDENT

When does the application open?

The Collier Scholars Common Application (CCF) will open on **November 1, 2025**

When is the application due?

- The application will close on **February 2, 2026**, at 4:59pm EST
- To be considered complete, **all required documents, and information must be submitted by the deadline**

Where can I access the application?

- You can use the following link <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Login?urlkey=cfccscholarship> or
- Scan the QR code provided
 - Be sure to select the Collier Scholars Common Application



What documents do I need to complete the application?

1. Unofficial Academic Transcript

- **High school seniors/recent graduates:** Upload a transcript that includes final fall semester grades from senior year
- **Current college students:** Upload a transcript with final fall semester grades from the current academic year
- **GED earners:** Upload a copy of your GED certificate
- If you're unable to provide a transcript or GPA, you must explain why in the application
- **Note:** High school seniors usually receive final fall grades by **January 15** and college students typically receive theirs by **January 1**. **Do not submit your application until your transcript reflects these grades.**

2. One Letter of Recommendation (LOR)

- Must be from the **current academic year** and written by a teacher, counselor, employer, or another professional (not friends or family)
- A strong letter should speak to:
 - » Your work ethic
 - » Your academic and career goals
 - » Your potential in your chosen field
 - » The LOR should be personalized and provide unique details to you
 - » The LOR should be insightful but not too brief

3. Tax Documentation

- Submit page 1 and page 2 of form 1040 (needed to verify household income)
- **Dependent students** must provide parent/guardian tax documents
- **Independent students** must provide their own
- Unsure of your dependency status?
 - » <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>

4. Essay Responses

- Respond to the following prompts:
 - » **Personal Statement**
 - » **Academic/Career Goals**
 - » **Community Impact**

5. Supplemental Questions

- These may appear **after you submit your application**
- Allow enough time before the deadline to complete any follow-up questions and all materials must be submitted by the deadline

Do I need to submit the FAFSA?

- FAFSA is not required to apply for CCF scholarships, but we encourage all students to complete it to explore all available financial aid: <https://studentaid.gov/>

Are scholarships only for students with high GPAs?

- No, we offer scholarships for students with diverse academic backgrounds, interests, and goals
- Some awards are merit-based, some are need-based, and others are a mix of both

How can I find my school's cost of attendance?

- Most colleges list this information on their websites under Financial Aid or Admissions

Do I need to reapply each year?

- Yes, to be considered for new awards, reapply every year
- Some scholarships are renewable—if you're eligible for renewal, you'll receive instructions in the summer

Should I create a new account each year?

- No, always use the same account for all CCF scholarship activity
- You can update your contact details in your portal profile at any time

Why is parent/guardian info required?

- If you're considered a dependent student under FAFSA guidelines, parent/guardian personal and financial info is required

Can I view the application in another language?

- Yes, click the Google Translate option in the upper left corner of the application

All responses must be in English

If I receive a scholarship, where is the check sent?

- All scholarship funds are sent directly to your college or university after we receive your acceptance form and confirm enrollment

Will my personal information be shared?

- No, your personal details will not be shared with third parties for marketing or promotions
- You will be asked to sign a consent form so we can share relevant info with scholarship donors

How do I know if I'm eligible for specific scholarships?

- Once you submit your application, eligible scholarships will appear on your dashboard
- You can always track outstanding tasks under the "Action Needed" section of your portal

When and how will I be notified of decisions?

- Scholarship decisions are finalized by early May
- You'll be notified via email and can also check your portal dashboard
- Make sure your email address, phone number, and mailing address are current, and check your inbox regularly for updates from CCF

Who do I contact with questions?

Please reach out to:

Deb Olson

Scholarship Coordinator

239-307-4519

dolson@collierccf.org

Laura Bidireanu

Director of Education/Scholarships

239-307-4515

lbidireanu@collierccf.org

Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions



PARENT / GUARDIAN


When does the application open?

The Collier Scholars Common Application (CCF) will open on November 1, 2025

When is the application due?

- The application will close on **February 2, 2026**, at 4:59pm EST
- All required information/documentation must be provided for a student to submit the application and be considered complete

Where can my student find the application?

- They can use the following link <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfccscholarship> or
- They can scan the following QR code 
- They can go to the CCF website at <https://colliercf.org/scholarships/apply-for-scholarships/>
 - Be sure that they click on the Collier Scholars Common Application to apply
 - **Note:** Only applicants should create an account on the application portal

What documents/information does my student need to complete the Collier Scholars Common Application?

• Unofficial Academic Transcript

If they are a current HS senior or a recent HS graduate, they **MUST** upload a transcript that includes final fall semester grades from senior year

- If they are a current college student, they **MUST** upload a transcript that includes final fall semester grades from the current academic year
- If they earned a GED, they must upload their certificate
- If they do not have a GPA or transcript available, they must explain why they cannot provide this information

» **Note:** Posting of final fall semester grades varies each year. High School Seniors should have final grades by **January 15** and current college students should have Final Fall Semester Grades by **January 1**. Students **MUST** wait to submit their application until transcripts include Final Fall Semester Grades.

• One letter of recommendation (LOR) is required and must be from the current academic year written by a professional or academic contact (please do not use family members or friends). The letter should include the following:

- Applicant's work ethic
- Applicant's potential in chosen career field
- Applicant's educational and career goals
- The LOR should be personalized and provide unique details to the applicant
- The LOR should be insightful but not too brief

• Most recent federal income taxes from 2 years prior

- Page 1 and page 2 of form 1040 (needed to verify household adjusted gross income)
- Dependent students will need to supply their parent/guardian taxes for each parent

- Independent students will need to supply their own tax information
- **Note:** To determine dependency status, please visit <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency>
- **There are 3 essay topics that your student will need to respond to**
 - Personal Statement
 - Academic/Career Goals
 - Community Impact
- **Supplemental Questions**
 - Students may have supplemental information to provide, which will only show on the portal once they submit the application
 - Students should allow time between submission and the due date to ensure they have time to complete any supplemental questions, which must be submitted by the deadline

How involved should I be in the application process?

- Be supportive and assist your student with organization, necessary documents, proofreading and deadlines, but please allow your child to take the lead. Scholarship committees want to hear from the student and not the parent/guardian

What is FAFSA, is it required for the scholarship?

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) helps determine your child's eligibility for need-based financial assistance: <https://studentaid.gov/>
- CCF does not require FAFSA, but we encourage all our applicants to file

Are the scholarships only for students with a high GPA?

- No, we have scholarships for students with a wide variety of backgrounds, GPA's, areas of study, types of institutions, and levels of education
- Our scholarships vary in criteria and may be merit-based, need-based, or a combination of both

When/how will students be notified of decisions?

- All decisions are made by the beginning of May and students will be contacted via a system email
- Applicants can also check their dashboard in the portal
- It is the student's responsibility to have their correct contact information (address, phone # and email) on their account, as well as monitoring their email on a regular basis for communication from CCF

Who should my student contact with questions about the scholarship application?

Please contact one or both of the following:

Deb Olson

Scholarship Coordinator
239-307-4519
dolson@collierccf.org

Laura Bidireanu

Director of Education/Scholarships
239-307-4515
lbidireanu@collierccf.org

Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions



COUNSELOR

When does the application open?

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- They can scan the following QR code
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What documents/information do students need to complete the Collier Scholars Common Application?

- **Unofficial Academic Transcript**
 - If they are a current HS senior or a recent HS graduate, they **MUST** upload a transcript that includes final fall semester grades from senior year
 - If they are a current college student, they **MUST** upload a transcript that includes final fall semester grades from the current academic year.
 - If they earned a GED, they must upload their certificate
 - If they do not have a GPA or transcript available, they must explain why they cannot provide this information

- One letter of recommendation (LOR) is required and must be from the current academic year written by a professional or academic contact (please do not use family members or friends). The letter should include the following:
 - Applicant's work ethic
 - Applicant's potential in chosen career field
 - Applicant's educational and career goals
 - The LOR should be personalized and provide unique details to the applicant
 - The LOR should be insightful but not too brief
- **Most recent federal income taxes from 2 years prior**
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- There are 3 essay topics that students will need to respond to
 - Personal Statement
 - Academic/Career Goals
 - Community Impact
- **Supplemental Questions**
 - Students may have supplemental information to provide, which will only show on the portal once they submit the application
 - Students should allow time between submission and the due date to ensure they have time to complete any supplemental questions, which must be submitted by the deadline

What role should I play in the application process?

- Help students stay organized and meet the deadline
- Proofread essays
- Write letters of recommendation – see suggested prompts below:
 - Applicant's work ethic
 - Applicant's potential in chosen career field
 - Applicant's current accomplishments and honors
 - Applicant's educational/or career goals
 - Letter that provides details unique to the applicant
- Advise your student to file FAFSA (<https://studentaid.gov/>), assist if necessary, and share local FAFSA completion events

How can I support students with their essays?

- Encourage students to share personal stories and goals
- Offer feedback on clarity, tone, and grammar
- Provide examples or brainstorming exercises to get their inspiration flowing

What common mistakes can I help students avoid?

- Missing the deadline
- Uploading their transcript before final fall semester grades are posted
- Reusing letters of recommendation from previous years or applications (it must be from the current academic year)
- Not completing supplemental essays
- Not providing information under "Special Circumstances" when they have a situation that is relevant to the prompt provided

- Not following notes, instructions, or directions on the application
- Not checking their email on a regular basis as that is how CCF communicates

How can I motivate students who doubt they will qualify?

- Remind them that there are scholarships for all types of students-not just top performers
- Share success stories of former students
- Remind the student that it is just one application to be considered for 70+ opportunities

When/how will students be notified of decisions?

- All decisions are made by the beginning of May, students will be contacted via email, and students can also check their dashboard in the portal
- It is the student's responsibility to have his/her correct contact information (address, phone # and email) on their account, as well as monitoring their email on a regular basis for communication from CCF

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Flyer Summary

Title: Collier Scholars Common Application - Scholarships

Summary: The Collier Scholars Common Application will open 11/1/2025 and close 2/2/2026 promptly at 459pm.

Event Start Date: 01 Nov 2025

Event End Date: 22 Feb 2026

Company: Collier Community Foundation

Email: dolson@colliercf.org

*These flyers are shared for informational purposes and do not represent District-sponsored or District-supervised events.
Sharing these materials does not imply endorsement by Collier County Public Schools.
The purpose of Community Flyers is to connect CCPS families with out-of-school-time community activities and opportunities.*

