

KC Scholars Traditional Scholarship

Application Opens: January 8 - February 27, 2026



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/fEGEMVt4yB>

Great Jobs 

A chance to learn. The power to earn.

**SCHOLARS
FIRST**

Agenda



Scholarships
Overview



What You Can do
to Prepare



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Scholarship Overview



OUR PROGRAMS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES



11TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP

January 8 – February 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CST

- \$50,000 scholarship applied up to six years OR upon obtaining a bachelor's degree.
- Available to current 11th graders.
- Minimum 250 awarded annually.
- College-Specific Scholarship opportunity.
 - Applicants not selected for a Traditional Scholarship may be considered for a College-Specific Scholarship if they indicate interest on their application.
- [Link](#)

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES



Adult Learner Scholarship:

November 5 – December 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. CST

- \$25,000 scholarship applied up to six years OR upon obtaining a bachelor's degree.
- Available to adults 24+ with a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Up to 150 awarded annually.
- [Link](#)



Great Jobs KC:

Apply anytime

- Tuition-free short-term job training and job skills workshops
- For individuals who currently earn less than \$45,000
- Available to adults 17+
- [Link](#)

Traditional Scholarship (11th Graders)

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- Up to \$5,000/semester paid directly to the college up to a bachelor's degree or 6-years of scholarship support.
- Maintain GPA and graduate requirements in senior year of high school.
- Advising support in high school and college.
- Enroll full-time in college in Fall 2027.

APPLICATION CYCLE

- January 8 - February 27 at 5:00 p.m. CST.
- Award notification on May 5, 2026 via email and paper mail.

Traditional Scholarship (11th Graders)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Current 11th grader.
- Live in or be home-schooled or attend public, charter or private school in 6 eligible counties: Wyandotte & Johnson (KS) - Cass, Clay, Jackson & Platte (MO).
- 2.5 cumulative unweighted high school GPA or at least a 16 on the ACT (800 on SAT).
- Income eligible (12,000 or less Student Aid Index on [Federal Student Aid \(FSA\) Estimator](#)). Use the [Scholarship Application Resources](#) to help complete the estimator.
- US Citizenship/Residency is not required.

Where can you attend if you are awarded the Traditional scholarship?

Awardees of the Traditional Scholarship can use their award at **any of the colleges and universities in our KC Scholars College Network**. Many of these Colleges are in the Kansas City Region.

Our partners works closely with Great Jobs KC to ensure Scholars are well supported. Whether you're considering a Kansas City, Missouri College to use your scholarship, or a Kansas College to apply the awarded funds, we have an incredible network of colleges and universities.



What is the College-Specific Scholarship?

Applicants who are not awarded a Traditional Scholarship may be considered for College-Specific Scholarship which can **ONLY** be used at the awarded college. Applicants must indicate interest on the application to be considered. Checking 'Yes' will not decrease an applicants chance of being considered for a Traditional Scholarship, it increases their chance of receiving a scholarship overall!

- [College-Specific Quick Guide & Program Guidelines](#) show all the small differences.
- [Find Your College](#) tool.

Awarding decisions are based on:

- Applicant interest in the college based on ranking within the application.
- Specific college eligibility requirements (See: College Specific Quick Guide).
- Overall application score.



Activity: Explore KC Scholars College Network Schools

- Go to greatjobskc.org/find-your-college/
- Use the filters on the right side to begin exploring colleges. The [College-Specific Roadmap](#) has a guide to help decide if you should check "Yes" to be considered for a College-Specific Scholarship."
- Click on *Read More* to learn more about the school.
- Make a list of the schools you are interested in.
- **Application Tip:** A section of the application will ask you to rank the schools in the KC Scholars College Network. Keep a list of the College-Network Schools you are interested in to make the section easier to complete.

What Can You do to Prepare?

- Determine **eligibility** for the scholarship.
 - Start writing **personal statements**.
 - Identify a trusted adult as a **recommender**.
 - Research the **College-Specific Scholarship** opportunity.
-
- Email applicationhelp@greatjobskc.org questions!



Determine **ELIGIBILITY** for the scholarship

- Check your GPA
 - What steps do you need to take to finish the semester strong and achieve at least a cumulative unweighted 2.5 GPA? **YOU'VE GOT THIS!!**
 - Discuss taking the ACT/SAT test with your advisor/counselor (ACT/SAT score is not required for scholarship eligibility unless cumulative unweighted GPA is below a 2.5).
 - **Encouraged Milestone:** Check your current cumulative unweighted GPA and schedule a time to meet with your advisor to create a plan if needed by the end of September.
- Determine Your Student Aid Index
 - Use the [Scholarship Application Resources](#) to help complete the estimator.
 - Virtual workshops are held during the fall semester for SAI assistance. [Check here](#) for schedule and link to our application workshop website page.
 - **Encouraged Milestone:** In October, complete the FSA Estimator to receive your SAI. Download the PDF on the results page with your SAI number.

Get started on your **PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

- KC Scholars requires two personal statements with a word count of 250 - 750 words each.
- Write personal statements in a Word or Google document. Once the application is open, you can paste your final draft into the application section. You will not receive a copy of your personal statements back upon submitting.
- ChatGPT is a great tool for brainstorming, outlining, and reviewing. However, personal statements should be written in your voice, not by AI. We want to hear YOUR story!
 - [A Student's Guide to Writing with ChatGPT](#)
 - [How to Write an Essay with ChatGPT](#)
- Use the [Scholarship Application Resources](#) for additional tips on writing personal statements.
- **Encouraged Milestone:** In November, start working on your personal statements in a Word or Google Document after you have determined your eligibility.

2026 Traditional Personal Statement Prompts

Prompt 1: Everyone has a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful that their application would be incomplete without it. Please share your story.

Prompt 2: Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. How does this motivate you to pursue a college degree?



Identify a trusted adult as a RECOMMENDER

- Current teachers, counselors, advisers, mentors, employers, and community leaders make great recommenders! Select someone who knows you well and can showcase your character.
- A recommender cannot be a family member or friend of the applicant.
- On the application, you will submit the name and email address of your recommender. They will receive a short form to complete. External recommendation letters are not accepted.
- Applicants cannot submit their applications until their recommender completes the Recommender Form.
- **Encouraged Milestone:** Identify your recommender and reach out to ask if they are willing to be your recommender for the KC Scholars Scholarship by winter break. This will help verify they are available and willing to complete form.

Research the **COLLEGE-SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIP** opportunity

- If not awarded a Traditional Scholarship, you may be considered for a College-Specific Scholarship. If you receive a College-Specific Scholarship, it can only be used at the assigned school. To be considered, you must check "Yes" for consideration in the application.
 - Checking 'Yes' will not decrease your chance of being considered for a Traditional scholarship, it increases your chance of receiving a scholarship overall!
- Use the [College-Specific Roadmap](#) to learn more.
- Filter with the [Find Your College](#) tool to discover campuses that fit your dream and eligibility.
- Review the [College-Specific Quick Guide](#) to understand campus specific requirements like housing, GPA, citizenship status, and more.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Application Support Resources



COMMUNITY AND VIRTUAL APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

- Attend a workshop in the fall or spring during the application window. [Check here](#) for schedule and link.



SAI ESTIMATOR GUIDE

- Utilize [guide](#) to help complete the Federal Student Aid Estimator.



APPLICATION CHECKLISTS

- Utilize the [Traditional](#) checklist for completing the application.



APPLICATION RESOURCES

- [Review](#) the linked resources and common FAQ on our website.



NEW!! CHATBOT KC

- Utilize [ChatBot KC](#) on our website to get FAQs answered in real-time 24/7.



Important Dates

Application Opens: January 8, 2026

Application Closes: February 27, 2026, at 5:00p.m.

Awards Day: May 5, 2026

Interest Form



Receive KC Scholars
updates and reminders!

