

SILA Foundation Post-Secondary Scholarship Program FAQ

Do you allow paper application submissions?	No, only online applications are accepted for our scholarship program.
How to I apply for a scholarship?	The Post-Secondary College Scholarship Application is located on the SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS page on our website, www.silafoundation.org .
When will you be opening the online application?	Online applications are available each year from April 1-May 31.
Will you be awarding a scholarship for the spring semester?	No, our scholarships are based on the fall/spring academic years not semesters.
I will not be enrolled full-time until the Fall, do I still qualify?	Yes, our scholarships are based on the fall/spring academic years.
I don't have a 3.0 GPA, can I still apply for this scholarship?	No
Is this scholarship just for high school students?	No
My major/program-of-study isn't list on the application, can I still apply?	No
I am an international student, do I qualify for your scholarship?	No, we do not currently offer scholarships for international students.
I was awarded one of your scholarships in the past, may I apply again?	Yes
I have been admitted to a graduate program, do I qualify for your scholarship?	Yes
I am technically enrolled in my Master's program but will not be signing up for classes until summer which is after your deadline, can I still apply?	Yes, the scholarship is open to graduate students. When applying be sure to attach your final transcript from your Bachelor's degree (be prepared to submit your fall enrollment if you are chosen), also attach employment verification to verify working hours (if applicable).
I am enrolled to be in an accredited MBA program in September of this year. I noticed in the requirements it says I must be enrolled with a 3.0 GPA or better, however, my program has not started yet. Am I still eligible?	You will need to attach your final transcript from your Bachelor's degree and then submit your fall enrollment if chosen. Also include a letter of employment to verify any working hours.
I will not be attending school full-time until fall, do I have to wait until I'm fully registered to apply for your scholarship?	No, you do not have to wait because our scholarships are based on the fall/spring academic school year. The required documents will need to be submitted before any funds are dispersed.
My school follows trimesters, do I still qualify?	Yes, as long as you meet the definition of a full-time student.
I am currently enrolled in a certificate program at a community college. Am I eligible to apply?	Yes, as long as you meet the definition of a full-time student.
Is demonstrated financial need a necessary component of a selected candidate?	The scholarship committee will review all aspects of the application. This will include academic achievement, personal narrative, and financial need.
I won't have my Fall schedule until after the application is closed, can I still apply?	Yes, attach current transcript with application. If chosen for an award, official fall schedule will be required before any funds are dispersed.
Can I attach an unofficial transcript to my application?	Yes, however, if you are chosen for an award official documentation MUST be submitted before any funds are dispersed.
Do you need a transcript that is a sealed one sent directly to you or will one that I can print off online work for you guys?	Official online transcripts are acceptable provided they include the school and student information.

Is there a certain form that you need for employment verification or is just a letter from my boss acceptable?	We prefer a letter written and signed by your employer or direct supervisor upon company letterhead stating that you are employed full-time at their business. You may scan the letter as to attach to your application.
If you are a high school senior do you have to provide work hours?	No, you are considered a full-time student.
How are the Reference Letters scored?	Each letter is read then scored by an assigned review committee member using a set rubric.
Who should I ask to write my letter of reference?	The letter of reference should address your characteristics as a student, employee (if applicable), volunteer, and overall as a person at the discretion of the author. The letter should come from a person who can best describe your characteristics and work ethic, whether in school or during employment. We suggest asking teachers, employers, community leaders, and counselors as family members are not permitted. The letter may be provided to you to attach to your scholarship application, or the letter may be sent directly to us at scholarships@silafoundation.org .
What should the letter of reference address?	The letter of reference should address your characteristics as a student, employee (if applicable), volunteer, and overall as a person at the discretion of the author. The letter should come from a person who can best describe your characteristics and work ethic, whether in school or during employment. The letter may be provided to you to attach to your scholarship application, or the letter may be sent directly to us to be attached to your application by sending it electronically to scholarships@silafoundation.org or mailing it to us at the address below. Please note, all documentation must be received no later than May 31 to be eligible.
My reference letter is being mailed directly to the SILA Foundation, how should I proceed with my application?	Our recommendation to you would be to leave your application open until the letter is received and attached to your application.
What is the difference between a written versus a video testimonial?	The written response to the short-answer question is required , whereas the video testimonial is optional .
What should my video testimonial address?	You may expand upon your answer to what winning this scholarship would mean to you. You must refrain from using your name or school (this includes school apparel) as the video may be used to promote the program and these are grounds for disqualification of your video.
Is a video testimonial required?	Although not required, attaching a testimonial video is a way to stand-out from the other applicants.
What if I'm a recipient but am unable to submit the requirement documentation before the deadline?	We cannot allow exceptions to the deadline, a runner-up would be awarded the scholarship.
After the application window closes, how long does the application review process take?	The review process may take up to 60-90 days, so we anticipate sending an email to notify all applicants of our decision before September 1st. If chosen, funds can be expected to be released directly to the school some time mid-September.
Do you notify all students of the decision?	Yes, all students are notified of the Committee's decision.
If I am chosen, will the funds be sent directly to my school?	Yes, checks are mailed directly to the college.
If I am chosen, how long before the funds are sent to my school?	Generally checks are mailed out within 30-days of being winners being notified.
Will the winners be posted on the SILA Foundation website?	Yes
I have a few questions about the scholarship program this didn't answer, who do I contact?	Please submit questions directly to our Scholarship Committee by emailing them at scholarships@silafoundation.org