

\$10,000 Scholarship

All eligible high school seniors must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a senior at a North Carolina public high school
- Must be an SECU member or is eligible for membership through a parent/guardian
- Must be a United States citizen, a resident of North Carolina, and eligible for in-state tuition
- Must be accepted to attend one of the 16 UNC system universities as a full-time undergraduate
- Must have demonstrated scholastic achievement with a 2.5 or higher unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Must have demonstrated leadership, excellence of character, integrity and community involvement
- Must file FAFSA as part of the application

Applications are now available! Deadline for submission: 3/1/21

Speak with your guidance counselor for more information and additional eligibility criteria.

SECU Foundation

Part of the **UNC System**

SECU Foundation established the *People Helping People* four-year scholarship program to help North Carolina public high school students attend college. SECU Foundation takes an active role in assisting communities across North Carolina and truly believes in “People Helping People!” Each of the 115 North Carolina Local Education Agencies (“LEAs”)/School Districts will receive a minimum of one scholarship for a senior **to attend one of the 16 constituent campuses of the University of North Carolina System**. Although the SECU Foundation Scholarship program wishes to recognize academic achievement, the *People Helping People* Scholarship has a much broader purpose; recognizing leadership, integrity and community involvement.

The SECU Foundation *People Helping People* Scholarship is **only available to graduating public high school seniors who are either current members of State Employees’ Credit Union (“SECU”) or the child of a parent/guardian who is a member of SECU at the time of application. Membership eligibility does not include Local Government Federal Credit Union or NC Press Association Credit Union members.** Preference will be given to students whose parents or guardians and family members are public sector employees (state, local or federal government; public health; public education) who live and work in North Carolina. Additionally, preference will be given to those majoring in public service degree programs (such as Public Health, Education, Public Administration, and Public Policy). While not a requirement, identification of a financial need, as determined by submission of a Free Application for Federal student Aid (FAFSA), will be taken into consideration by the selection committee. Scholarship recipients in good academic standing will be able to receive the scholarship up to a maximum of eight (8) consecutive semesters at the same university. Students selected should not be the recipient of other large scholarships.

We require all applicants to follow the formal application process set by the SECU Foundation. All graduating seniors meeting the stated criteria will be eligible for consideration. The criteria have been designed to give the LEA Scholarship Selection Committee flexibility in awarding the scholarship. The LEA Scholarship Selection Committee will recognize an individual in the senior graduating class deserving of an opportunity to attend college and will select recipient(s) without regard to race, sex, color, creed, religious preference, age, national origin or disability. The LEA Scholarship Selection Committee will use the following criteria to award the SECU Foundation *People Helping People* Scholarship to a recipient who:

1. Is either an SECU member or is eligible for membership through a parent/guardian. Student or their parent/guardian must be a member at the time of application.
2. Is a senior at a North Carolina public high school who has been accepted to one of the 16 constituent campuses of the University of North Carolina System, copy of acceptance letter must be provided.
3. Is a US citizen and a resident of North Carolina under NCGS 116-143.1 and is eligible for in-state tuition.

4. Best exemplifies the “People Helping People” philosophy of SECU, and has demonstrated leadership, excellence of character, integrity, and community involvement.
5. Demonstrates scholastic achievement with a maintained 2.5 or higher unweighted grade point average on a 4.0 scale and may be deserving of financial aid.
6. Will use the scholarship to pay for full-time *undergraduate* student tuition and fees.
7. Agrees to continue as a full-time student in good standing (maintained 2.5 or higher GPA) with the same university for up to eight (8) consecutive fall/spring semesters payable at \$1,250 per semester. Scholarships are not transferable without prior approval of SECU Foundation.
 - a. A written appeal for transfer must be made to the SECU Foundation prior to transfer.
 - b. No transfers will be allowed to a university outside of the UNC System.
 - c. Any gap in active enrollment will result in non-eligibility for funding for each semester missed.
8. Is not a director, employee, or family member of a director or employee of SECU or the SECU Foundation, or a family member of a member of the scholarship selection committee. ***For the purpose of this scholarship program and a student’s relation to a director, employee, or selection committee member, family member includes spouse, parents, siblings, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and spouses of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, of a selection committee member, employee or director of SECU, or employee or director of SECU Foundation. Also, for the purpose of this scholarship program and a student’s relation to a director, employee, or selection committee member, family member also includes persons living in the same residence and maintaining a single economic unit as a selection committee member, employee or director of SECU, or employee or director of SECU Foundation.*** However, please note that the student must be a member of SECU or be eligible for membership through a parent or guardian at the time of application to be eligible for the scholarship.

The decision of the LEA Scholarship Selection Committee will be **final** if all requirements have been met.

<p>Each SECU Foundation Scholarship recipient must receive a copy of the Eligibility Requirements.</p>

**2021 State Employees Credit Union
People Helping People Scholarship Packet**

The amount of this scholarship is \$10,000. The packet is due to Ms. Karla by 3:00 on March 1st. .

SECU Scholarship Checklist

- Application, created and printed as a Microsoft Word docx
- Community Involvement Essay (2nd page of the application, also created in Word)
- People Helping People Consent Form
- Copy of Letter of Acceptance
- Student Bio (see important points, below, and included guidelines)
- Recent Photograph

The application for SECU Scholarship has been shared with you. If you cannot find it, like link for it is: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TASHAcSTErzCAju3IfkZHbRtWtKyE0UW/edit>

When you access the application, it looks like this:



**2021
Application for High School
Scholarship Program**

Please complete all information on this form. Application must be returned as a Word document only.

Personal Information		
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Social Security Number (Example: 000-00-0000)		
Home Street Address/Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Telephone # (Example: 000-000-0000)	Bookmark: Link Remove	
Gender: (Male/Female)		

IMPORTANT POINTS about this rather strangely done application:

- You MUST click "File" and DOWNLOAD AS> Microsoft Word. The form will be fillable and MUST be completed and printed in WORD format. Save it if you must complete it later but print the **Word.docx** and hand in with your packet.
- Do not share the document because if you do, you will share it with all the counselors in the county as well as the assistant superintendent.
- Your community involvement essay will be typed on the 2nd page of the application. Remember to address all the items in the prompt. How have you contributed? Examples? How were these significant opportunities for you? This is a big part of the selection process.
- Your student bio is a brief essay hitting all the points on the included "Guidelines for Writing Your.... Bio".

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2021 *People Helping People* Scholarship Consent Form

The SECU Foundation and State Employees' Credit Union ("SECU") may use photographs, slides, videos, or illustrations of students in newsletters or publications produced by SECU, in slide presentations, videos, and/or on websites about the scholarships, by the news media and in any SECU Foundation news coverage, in video productions aired on television produced by SECU, and in other similar forms of communication. Local media (TV, newspaper, radio stations) frequently want to interview students to add a personal touch to stories. Students' comments may be used in newspapers or broadcast on radio or TV. **Please return this completed and signed form with other requested documents to your high school guidance office.**

I give permission to the SECU Foundation, SECU and the news media to use any photographs, slides, videos, illustrations and interviews of the student listed below. Further, I authorize their use without inspecting or approving the finished product or its specific use.

At the time of application for the scholarship, the student listed below is a member of SECU or is eligible for membership through a parent or guardian who is a SECU member. I authorize SECU Foundation to verify SECU membership.

I acknowledge the SECU *People Helping People* Scholarship is *not* transferable without the prior written consent of the SECU Foundation.

I have received or reviewed a copy of the Eligibility Criteria (available on the SECU Foundation website at www.ncsecufoundation.org) and confirm that the student listed below meets all Eligibility Criteria.

The student listed below is not a director, employee, or family member of a director or employee of SECU or the SECU Foundation, or a family member of a member of the scholarship selection committee. *For the purpose of this scholarship program and a student's relation to a director, employee, or selection committee member, family member includes spouse, parents, siblings, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and spouses of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, of a selection committee member, employee or director of SECU, or employee or director of SECU Foundation. Also, for the purpose of this scholarship program and a student's relation to a director, employee, or selection committee member, family member also includes persons living in the same residence and maintaining a single economic unit as a selection committee member, employee or director of SECU, or employee or director of SECU Foundation.* However, please note that the student must be a member of SECU or be eligible for membership through a parent or guardian at the time of application to be eligible for the scholarship.

I authorize SECU Foundation to contact my university to obtain educational data related to the following: graduation, major, post-graduation employment information (if available)

Student's Social Security Number (example: 000-00-0000):

Student's name (please print):

Signature of Student:

Date:

Parent's Social Security Number (example: 000-00-0000):

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) (please print):

Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Date:

Street/Mailing address, city, state, zip:

Guidelines for Writing Your People Helping People® Scholarship Bio

- Identify from which high school you will be graduating.
- Include the university you will be attending as well as your intended major and career goals upon college graduation.
- List examples of any community service/involvement, school and extracurricular activities you may have participated in, including part-time job experience, future plans, etc. You may choose to include highlights from your application essay.
- Share your thoughts on the impact this scholarship will have regarding your educational goals.
- Review your bio for typographical or formatting errors and make any necessary corrections.

Submit your completed bio along with your application, photo, signed consent form, and university acceptance letter to your high school counselor.

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SECU Foundation *People Helping People* Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What scholarships are provided to North Carolina public high schools by the SECU Foundation, and how much are the scholarships worth?

The SECU Foundation *People Helping People* 4-year scholarship valued at \$10,000 is payable at \$1,250 per semester, for a total of eight consecutive semesters. SECU Foundation does not select the recipients of the scholarship. Each LEA (Local Education Agency) has a Scholarship Selection Committee that selects the recipients of the scholarship for the schools within their district. Recipients must be enrolled full-time for the entire eight consecutive semesters at one of the 16 universities in the UNC system. Recipients must continue as a full-time student in good standing.

Q: The Criteria states recipients must be graduating seniors from a NC Public High School who have been accepted to attend one of the 16 constituent campuses of the UNC system. Which universities qualify as the 16 constituent campuses of the UNC system for this scholarship?

Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, UNC School of the Arts, North Carolina A&T, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, UNC at Asheville, UNC at Chapel Hill, UNC at Charlotte, UNC at Greensboro, UNC at Pembroke, UNC at Wilmington, Western Carolina University, Winston-Salem State University

Q: Who is eligible for the scholarship?

All graduating seniors from a North Carolina public high school who are either an SECU member or are eligible for membership through a parent/guardian and meet the eligibility criteria are considered for the SECU Foundation scholarship. Membership eligibility does not include LGFCU and NC Press Association Credit Union members. Students attending private schools, being home schooled, going to out-of-state universities or residing out-of-state are not eligible for the *People Helping People* Scholarship. Please note, if selected as a recipient for the scholarship, proof of eligibility will be required.

Q: How does one apply for the SECU *People Helping People* Scholarship?

An application must be completed by the student. Applications may be obtained through the guidance office at the high school. Individual students may not submit information to the SECU Foundation to apply for the scholarship. Recipients are selected by a Scholarship Selection Committee at each LEA and once selected, their information is given to SECU Foundation for verification of membership. No individual applications are reviewed by the Foundation. Students must contact their individual school's guidance office to express interest in being considered for the scholarship.

Q: What expenses do the scholarships cover?

Scholarships are for full-time undergraduate tuition and fees.

Q: When is the SECU Foundation's submission deadline for recipient names?

Deadlines will vary slightly for application at each high school, please contact your local guidance office for application deadline. LEAs must notify SECU Foundation of the recipient winners no later than April 5th, 2021.

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Q: How and when are the scholarship funds distributed?

SECU Foundation contacts the financial aid office at the 16 UNC-System campuses each semester to verify each recipient's continued full-time enrollment. Funds are distributed for spring and fall semesters, after the registration period for each semester has ended and verification of enrollment is received from each university. Funds are paid directly to each university to be distributed to student accounts for tuition and fees in the amount of \$1,250 per semester.

The SECU Foundation will fund study abroad programs and internships only where the courses and professors are sanctioned by the university and the student is considered actively enrolled in the university during their participation. Payment will go to the university.

Q: What happens if the recipient changes universities?

Scholarships are **not** transferable without prior approval of the SECU Foundation.

1. A written appeal for transfer must be made to SECU Foundation prior to transfer. Appeals may be emailed to secufoundation@ncsecu.org. Please note, no transfers will be allowed to a university outside of the 16 constituent campuses of the UNC System.
2. After the request has been reviewed, the student will be notified in writing regarding the decision made by SECU Foundation. If accepted, confirmation of scholarship funding will also be sent to the university. Please note, SECU Foundation must receive proof of full-time status at the new university before any funds would be disbursed to the school.

Q: If a student leaves their university for a semester, becomes part time, or falls below the minimum 2.5 GPA, what happens to the funds for that semester?

No lapse in proper registration, or break in consecutive semesters, will be allowed. Should a student be unable to attend for any reason or their GPA falls below a 2.5, scholarship funding for that semester would be forfeited and it would be the responsibility of the student to contact SECU Foundation directly to advise of their return to full time status or updated academic standing. The scholarship does not extend beyond the eight consecutive semesters.

Q: How does SECU Foundation define "full-time" status?

SECU Foundation relies on the university to define and determine full-time status. Each semester the financial aid office at the 16 UNC-System university campuses reports to SECU Foundation the enrollment status for each of our scholarship recipients. Students should check with the financial aid office at their university if they have questions regarding enrollment status.

Q: What happens if the scholarship recipient graduates early?

The *People Helping People* Scholarship will pay up to the eight consecutive semesters of the four-year scholarship for undergraduate studies at \$1,250 per semester directly to the university. Since we pay the scholarship out semester by semester and not in a lump sum, no additional money would be available when a student graduates early. Recipients who graduate early forfeit any unused funds. Any unused funds would not be available for any graduate studies.

Q: How are "public sector" employees defined?

Public sector includes state, local or federal government, public health, and public education employees who live and work in North Carolina. Preference is to be given to students whose parents or guardians, and family members, are public sector employees who live and work in North Carolina.

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Q: The eligibility criteria state that a student cannot be a recipient of “other large scholarships”. Is there a cutoff for the amount a student can receive and still be eligible for the *People Helping People* Scholarship?

Ultimately, SECU Foundation would like for each student awarded the *People Helping People* scholarship to be able to utilize the full scholarship payment each semester. If a student is receiving a full ride to a university or has been awarded a scholarship that will not allow the *People Helping People* scholarship to be paid in full, we ask that they not be considered for the scholarship. SECU Foundation does not make decisions on what constitutes a “large” scholarship.

Q: How does the SECU Foundation distribute scholarships to the Local Education Agencies (LEA)/school districts?

SECU Foundation will award one \$10,000 scholarship to each LEA. Additional scholarships will be awarded using a formula based on information provided by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) using the 12th grade average daily membership (ADM) as a percentage of the statewide 12th grade ADM. Please note this number is subject to change from year to year, based on fluctuation of ADM, therefore the number of scholarships awarded each LEA may change from year to year.

Q: Can the SECU Foundation reverse decisions of recipients made by the LEA?

The decision made by the Scholarship Selection Committee at each LEA is final if all requirements have been met. SECU Foundation will not reverse the decision of the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Q: Who should applicants contact if they have any questions about the process?

Students should contact the guidance office at their local high school if they have any questions about the scholarship. The guidance counselor will have a point of contact at the LEA that may be reached should the counselor need assistance in answering any questions.