



December 2023



COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTING INFORMATION

You want to have your desired ACT score no later than December of your Senior Year!

<i>Test Date</i>	<i>Deadline to Register w/o Late Fee</i>	<i>Deadline to register w/late fee</i>	<i>Photo Upload Deadline</i>
September 9 th	August 4 th	August 18 th	September 1 st
October 28 th	September 22 nd	October 6 th	October 20 th
December 9 th	November 3 rd	November 17 th	December 1 st
February 10 th	January 5 th	January 19 th	February 2 nd
April 13 th	March 8 th	March 22 nd	April 5 th
June 8 th	May 3 rd	May 17 th	May 31 st
July 13 th	June 7 th	June 21 st	July 5 th

****Register online at <https://my.act.org/account/signin?location=https://my.act.org> ****

****ACT w/Writing cost \$93. You should not need to redo this as you took it your junior year. You need only register for ACT without Writing, which costs \$68. If you are on free or reduced lunch, you qualify for a fee waiver. ** Late registration fee is \$36.**

ACT FEE WAIVERS are available for the ACT if you qualify for free/reduced lunches, receive public assistance or live in federally subsidized public housing, are a ward of the state or reside in a foster home, or are homeless, a member of Upward Bound, or your family income falls below the USDA levels for free/reduced lunches. You must be currently enrolled in 11th or 12th grade and be testing in the United States, US territories, or Puerto Rico. Limit of four fee waivers for ACT. See counselor for waiver.

Waivers must be used before you graduate!

INFORMATION FOR ATHLETES

If you are considering participating in Division I or II athletics as a college freshman, you must register with and be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. This requires that you take a certain number of core courses and maintain a certain grade point average depending on your ACT/SAT score. Go to www.eligibilitycenter.org for information and to register. When registering for the ACT or SAT, remember that “official” test scores must be sent from the testing agency to the NCAA using code 9999. Test scores that appear on a high school transcript **will not** be accepted.

If you are considering participating in athletics at an NAIA school, you must register with the NAIA Eligibility Center at www.playNAIA.org. To be certified by the NAIA, you must meet two of the following three requirements: maintain a 2.0 GPA, score at least an 18 on the ACT, and/or be ranked in the top half of your graduating class.

Please talk with Coach Tidwell and Mrs. Ball if you are considering any of this.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

Federal law requires males who are 18 years of age to register with the Selective Service System. Register at www.sss.gov. You must register to be eligible for federal financial aid as well as for state-based aid at most colleges. **You must register within 30 days of your 18th birthday!**

Job Shadowing Opportunities

Mrs. Puckett, the St. Clair County Career Coach, will work with you on setting up job shadowing opportunities if you have a specific career in mind. Please let me know and we will get this set up.
christina.puckett@sccboe.org

Military Opportunities

If you are interested in any military branch, please see Mrs. Marbury. We can schedule ASVAB testing and recruiters with parent/guardian permission.

College Information

- **FAFSA opens in December. You must complete this if you are going to college. This is also a graduation requirement. A FAFSA waiver is available if you are not considering college.**
- **You must be accepted to the college before applying for their scholarships.**
- **Auburn University**
 - Applications open August 15th
 - Admission Application Deadline is February 1st.
 - Early Action Decision Deadline is December 1st.
 - Scholarship application opens November 1st.
 - Scholarship Deadline is February 15th.
 - Deadline to update test scores is January 10th.
 - Financial Aid Priority deadline is March 28th.
 - Enrollment deposit is due May 1st.
 - Scholarship acceptance/decline deadline is May 1st.
 - Auburn is test optional if you have at least a 3.6 GPA; otherwise, you must submit test scores.
 - Auburn now accepts ACT Superscores.
- **Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM)**
 - FAFSA Code: 008310
 - Admission Requirements
 - 2.3 GPA unweighted, ACT 18 or SAT 940
 - If you do not meet requirements, you will apply to the Bridge Program
 - If you have 2.3 GPA or higher you must have an ACT 17 or SAT 900
 - If you have a 2.0 GPA you must have an ACT 18 or SAT 940
 - AUM Priority Admission deadline is March 1st.
 - Scholarship deadline is June 1st
- **Gadsden State Community College**
 - Admission Application opens October 1st
 - You must apply at least 2 weeks prior before scholarship deadline in order to have application processed.
 - Scholarship Application opens November 1st
 - Scholarship deadline is February 1st
 - Deadline to update ACT score for scholarships is February 1st
 - Program of study changes allowed until February 1st for scholarship purposes.
 - You must be accepted before you can apply for scholarships.
 - There is one general scholarship application, the honors program application, and the presidential scholarship application.
 - 3.25 GPA (weighted) with a 22 ACT to be eligible for the Presidential or Honors Scholarship
 - 3.0 GPA (weighted) to be eligible for the Ambassador scholarship.
 - Start Strong Scholarship available for 6 fall credit hrs/6 spring credit hrs for those who do not receive any other scholarship offers from Gadsden State
- **Huntingdon College**
 - Application is always free & is test optional for 23-24 year
 - \$200 enrollment deposit
 - Admission Requirements: 3.0 GPA w/o ACT or 2.75 GPA with a 20 ACT for unconditional acceptance. 2.75 GPA for conditional acceptance
 - Preview Day: Feb 19th
 - Register at www.huntingdon.edu/visit

- Scholarships cannot be stacked/combined
 - See chart hanging by the bulletin board for a list of scholarships and links
- **Jacksonville State University (JSU)**
 - Caely Williams is your rep – cawilliams@jsu.edu
 - Text or call 256-600-9431
 - FAFSA code: 001020
 - Test optional. You can submit ACT scores until May 1st for scholarship purposes.
 - Housing application information
 - First year undergraduate students are required to live on campus inside the residence halls, however, we do allow students to request exemptions. Students from Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, Etowah, St. Clair, or Talladega County who do not wish to live on campus can submit an exemption form online starting October 10th.
 - \$200 non-refundable application fee to apply for housing.
 - Deadline is April 1st
 - Scholarship offers will begin in October
 - Apply at <https://www.jsu.edu/finaid/scholarships/competitive-foundation.html>
 - JAXApp scholarship application closes February 1st. It is one application that registers you for over 300 scholarships.
 - Leadership Scholarship is a separate application due February 1st.
 - Honors Scholarship is a separate application due February 1st.
 - International House Scholarship application is March 1st.
- **Jefferson State Community College**
 - Available scholarships include the Presidential Scholarship, Academic Excellence Scholarship, Dual Enrollment Scholarship, Ambassadors Scholarship, Students w/Disabilities Scholarship, Children of Blind Parents Scholarship, Counselor's Scholarship, Intramural Sports, Isaiah Core Scholarship, Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, Scholar's Bowl Scholarship, Jeff State Singers Scholarship, Sigma Chi Eta Scholarship, Sigma Kappa Delta (English Honors Society) Scholarship, Speech/Debate Scholarship, SGA Scholarship, and ENACTUS Scholarship. View at <https://www.jeffersonstate.edu/highschoolscholarships/>
- **Troy University**
 - Kaylee McBroom is your rep– kmcbroom@troy.edu
 - Unconditional admission without test score, students must have a 3.0 GPA. Conditional admission requires 2.5 GPA
 - Unconditional admission with a 20 ACT requires a 2.0 GPA
 - Conditional admission with a 17-19 ACT requires a 2.5 GPA
 - Merit Scholarships open September 1st deadline to submit is February 2nd.
 - Housing applications open October 2nd first come/first serve.
 - Financial Aid opens December 1st
 - Foundation Scholarships open January 1st. Deadline to submit is March 1st.
- **Tuskegee University**
 - Admission Application deadline is July 1st (\$25 application fee)
 - Test optional admission requires applicants to have a 3.0 GPA, write a personal essay, and have a letter of recommendation.
 - Preferred Admission/Standard Admission requires a 21 ACT or 1080 SAT and an unweighted GPA of 3.0
 - FAFSA SAR Report due by February 1st.
- **University of Alabama**
 - Christy Hudgens is your rep – christy.bama@ua.edu
 - Univ of AL is test optional

- Competitive Scholarship deadline is January 15th
- Merit Scholarship deadline is May 1st. You must submit ACT/SAT scores to qualify.
- February 1st housing application priority deadline
 - Housing application fee is \$175
 - Housing application opens October 2nd
- Freshman Enrollment deposit deadline is May 1st. The deposit is \$200.

- **University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB)**

- Taylor England is your rep - englandt@uab.edu
- UAB is test-optional
- Merit scholarship deadline is December 1st.
- BSMART scholarship deadline is March 1st with some being February 1st.
- Once your application to UAB has been submitted it CANNOT be updated or changed
- Click the link for scholarship information
<https://www.uab.edu/admissions/cost/scholarships/in-state-students>

- **University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH)**

- Trinity Verkest is your rep - tsv0002@uah.edu
- Competitive Scholarship applications are due December 15th.
- Test Scores must be received by May 1st to update scholarship eligibility for general scholarships.
 - There is no separate scholarship application for general scholarships

- **University of Mobile**

- Gracie Whittington is your rep – gwhittington@umobile.edu
- Preview Days: Sept. 29th, Oct. 9th, Nov 17th, Feb 16th, March 22nd
 - If you attend a preview day, you will be offered a scholarship if you are admitted.
 - Visit www.umobile.edu/previewday

- **University of Montevallo**

- Test Optional for students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- If you have a GPA of 2.5, you must have a ACT composite of 20
- If your ACT score is an 18 or 19 you may be considered for admissions based on GPA

- **University of North Alabama**

- Scholarship deadline is March 1st
- Housing application opens December 1st
 - Priority application deadline is March 1st
 - Cancellation deadline is May 1st
- ACT code is 0014

- **University of South Alabama**

- Scholarship deadline is February 15th
 - Apply at southalabama.edu/scholarships
- Campus housing priority application is April 1st

- **University of West Alabama (UWA)**

- James Bank Jr is your rep – jbanks@uwa.edu
- Scholarship application deadline is April 15th.
- Admission application deadline is April 15th.

Important Dates to Know (ALL DATES ARE TENTATIVE!!!)

- December 15th – Early release
- December 18th-January 2nd – No School
- January 9th – Report Cards
- January 17th – Gadsden State Tour

- February 9th – Mock Interviews (required)
- March 14th – Report Cards
- March 15th – Career Fair
- March 20th – Wallace State Tour
- April 6th – Prom
- May 8th – AP Literature Exam 8:00 a.m. (required)
- May 9th – Awards Day 9:00 a.m.
- May 16th – AP Biology Exam 12:00 p.m. (required)
- May 19th – Baccalaureate Hardin's Chapel 2:00 p.m.
- May 20th – Graduation 7:00 p.m.

Reminders

1. Check the counseling webpage often for updates. <https://www.sccboe.org/Page/2178>
2. Check Microsoft Teams Senior Class of 2024 for updates. Documents that are distributed during school will be uploaded there and on the counseling webpage.
3. Check your emails daily as colleges and scholarships will send communications through electronic form. Use a personal email not your school email!!! ALWAYS CHECK YOUR SPAM/JUNK folder in emails.
4. LISTEN to morning and afternoon announcements for information & opportunities!
5. Check the counselor bulletin board for info & scholarship of the week announcements!

Free Scholarship Search Engines

- JLV College Counseling - <https://jlvcollegecounseling.com/>
- Scholarship 360 - <https://scholarships360.org/>
- Get Schooled - <https://getschooled.com/journey/get-to-college/scholarships-for-college/>
- BOLD - <https://bold.org/applicants/>
- Sallie Mae Scholarship Search – www.salliemae.com/scholarshipsearch
- Cappex – www.cappex.com/scholarships
- Big Future – <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search/scholarship-list>
- Scholarship America - <https://scholarshipamerica.org/>
- Going Merry - <https://www.goingmerry.com/>
- Scholly: College Scholarships (download the phone app)

Other Helpful Resources

- College Planning Tool – www.salliemae.com/planforcollege
- Career/College/Scholarship Search - https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/?SFMC_cid=EM1012887-&rid=85653190
- There are available scholarships for students who parents work at Wal-Mart, Exxon Mobil
- General Electric Foundation - <https://www.iie.org/en/Programs> Provides opportunities to partner with various companies and earn scholarships throughout the world
- Cash for College Help Desk – is available Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Text or call 334-316-6155 or email algoestocollege@alabamapossible.org
 - This resource helps with FAFSA

Scholarships

1. Student Scholarships
 - a. Deadlines vary each month
 - b. <https://studentscholarships.org/scholarships.php>
2. McDonald's Scholarship Opportunities
 - a. Deadline: Varies between October-December
 - b. Employees apply at bit.ly/workscholar

- c. Hispanic students apply at bit.ly/hismescholar
- d. African American students apply at bit.ly/blkmescholar
- 3. Hagan Scholarship
 - a. Deadline: December 1st
 - b. Apply at <https://haganscholarships.org/>
- 4. Burger King Scholars Program
 - a. Deadline: December 15th
 - b. Apply at bit.ly/bkscholar2023
- 5. Thomas E. Huey Jr Memorial Scholarship/BLSA Scholarship
 - a. Deadline: December 31st
 - b. See scholarship on TEAMS, webpage, or in October newsletter.
- 6. Jackie Robinson Scholarship
 - a. Deadline: January 10, 2024
 - b. Apply at <https://jackierobinson.org/apply/>
- 7. Linly Heflin Scholarship
 - a. Deadline: January 10, 2024
 - b. For female students going to college
 - c. www.linlyheflin.org
- 8. Smith Scholarships
 - a. Deadline: January 13, 2024
 - b. Apply at <https://smithscholarships.com/>
- 9. Alabama Advantage Scholarship
 - a. Priority deadline: January 15th
 - b. Must have a completed application to UA, turned in all additional documents, and completed FAFSA
 - c. This scholarship provides money for needs-based.
- 10. Jacksonville State Scholarship
 - a. Deadline: February 1st
 - b. Apply at <https://www.jsu.edu/finaid/scholarships/competitive-foundation.html>
- 11. Gadsden State Scholarship
 - a. Deadline: February 1st
 - b. Apply at <https://www.gadsdenstate.edu/admissions-aid/scholarships.cms>
- 12. Rising Star WBRC
 - a. Deadline: February 1st (application says 16th but you want to submit before the end)
 - b. See application on TEAMS or in September newsletter.
 - c. Must give paper to Mrs. Marbury to submit nomination. DO NOT submit yourself or they will disqualify you.
 - d. Only 1 winner per school
- 13. Auburn Scholarship
 - a. Deadline: February 15th
- 14. College Counts
 - a. Deadline: February 29th
 - b. Apply at treasury.alabama.gov/collegecounts-scholarship
- 15. November Scholarship Bundle
 - a. Deadline: Varies between December 1st – April 1st
 - b. See bundle attached in TEAMS or the counseling webpage.
- 16. Troy University
 - a. Deadline: March 1st
 - b. Apply at <https://www.troy.edu/scholarships-costs-aid/scholarships/undergraduate-scholarships.html>

Miscellaneous

1. University of AL Minority Rural Health Scholars Program

- a. Application deadline is March 15th.
- b. The purpose of the program is to expose rural students to the field of medicine. You can earn up to 4 college credit hours. Program runs from May 26th-June 28th
- c. Apply at cchs.ua.edu/rmhs

2. Senior Class Fees

- a. Deadline: November 3, 2023. (Late fee of \$10 if not paid by this deadline)
- b. Senior Fees- \$150.00 includes cap, gown, diploma, diploma cover, senior awards & recognitions, commencement ceremonies, class luncheon, and class t-shirt.
- c. Yearbooks are not included in senior fees. Yearbooks are available for purchase. The cost is \$60 plus tax.
- d. The Class Fees payment does not include invitations, rings, jackets, or extra-curricular activities such as homecoming and/or prom.
- e. Each club may charge for cords and stoles.
- f. Students should pay their senior dues in the form of a cash, check, or money order payable to Ragland High School. *Please include your student's name on the check/money order. (No checks will be accepted after March 30th)*

3. Outstanding Debts

- a. If you incurred a debt(s) during the past school year(s) or this year, you will receive a debt letter. Students with outstanding fees at the end of the school year (class dues, textbooks, athletic equipment, etc.) will be **PROHIBITED** from participating in senior activities. Senior activities include baccalaureate & graduation. All debts must be cleared to participate in baccalaureate and graduation practices and ceremonies. After March 30th, only cash or money order will be accepted.



StudentScholarships.org
4410 Massachusetts Ave NW #250
Washington, DC, 20016

Attn: School Counselor | Scholarship Coordinator

Below you will find a list of 15 Scholarship Programs available to your students. More than 495 Individual Scholarships will be distributed through these 15 Programs. Students from your high school are eligible for all awards below.

*Newsletter is available for PDF Download here:
<https://studentscholarships.org/newsletters>

DECEMBER SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

DEADLINES BETWEEN: January 4th, 2024 & May 1st, 2024

1) GE Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program - \$40,000 - 20 Awards (Deadline: January 4, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Demonstrate at school, at the workplace, and within the community the attributes of leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship.
- B) Demonstrate strong academic performance (minimum 3.0 grade point average/4.0 scale or equivalent).

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/10159/ge-reagan-foundation-scholarship-program>

2) Mensa US Scholarship - \$2,500 - 178 Awards (Deadline: January 15, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- 1) Be enrolled in a degree program in an accredited U.S. institution of higher learning during the academic year following the application date.
- 2) Submit an application and essay explaining his or her career, academic and/or vocational goals.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/13885/mensa-us-scholarship>

3) Breanna Coleman Memorial Nursing Scholarship - \$5,000 - 1 Award (Deadline: January 24, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be a high school senior who will be pursuing a four-year degree in nursing.
- B) Be involved in volunteer work or other extracurricular activities outside of school.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/27824/breanna-coleman-memorial-nursing-scholarship>



StudentScholarships.org
4410 Massachusetts Ave NW #250
Washington, DC, 20016

4) Baer Reintegration Scholarship - \$5,000 - 10 Awards (Deadline: January 31, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be diagnosed with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder.
- B) Be age 18 years or older by the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic school year.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/10823/baer-reintegration-scholarship>

5) John Lennon Scholarships - \$20,000 - 3 Awards (Deadline: February 15, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be between the ages of 17 and 24 as of February 15, 2024.
- B) Submit musical works that have not been assigned to any major music publisher or major record label.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/12397/john-lennon-scholarships>

6) Black American Engineering Scholarship - \$10,000 - 6 Awards (Deadline: February 18, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be an incoming college freshman or a student transferring from a two-year program into a four-year program in the Fall of 2024.
- B) Be eligible for Federal Pell Grant funding.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/27286/black-american-engineering-scholarship>

7) Farm Kids for College Scholarships - \$2,500 - 3 Awards (Deadline: February 20, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be a high school senior in the United States.
- B) Major in an agricultural field at an accredited college or university in the Fall of 2024.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/13249/farm-kids-for-college-scholarships>



StudentScholarships.org
4410 Massachusetts Ave NW #250
Washington, DC, 20016

8) Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship - \$5,000 - 15 Awards (Deadline: March 1, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

A) Be direct descendants of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces. Membership in the American Legion is not required for this scholarship.

B) Be in their senior year of high school.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/12483/children-of-warriors-national-presidents-scholarship>

9) FEEA Scholarships - \$5,000 - 200 Awards (Deadline: March 14, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

A) Be children, step-children, or legal dependents of full- or part-time permanent federal civilian or postal workers employed with the federal government for more than three years.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/9760/feea-scholarships>

10) Navy League Foundation Scholarships - \$10,000 - 11 Awards (Deadline: March 15, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

A) Be a student enrolled in any curriculum at an accredited institution of higher education in the Fall of 2024.

B) Be the child or grandchild of a member of the sea services, which includes: the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/10176/navy-league-foundation-scholarships>

11) Latino Actuaries Scholarship Program - \$7,500 - 5 Awards (Deadline: March 31, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

A) Be a Latino student planning on attending a college or university in the United States in the Fall of 2024.

B) Plan on pursuing a career as an actuary.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/26498/latino-actuaries-scholarship-program>



StudentScholarships.org
4410 Massachusetts Ave NW #250
Washington, DC, 20016

12) Jack & Julie Narcolepsy Scholarship - \$1,000 - 35 Awards (Deadline: April 1, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be a high school senior or high school graduate starting your first semester of college in the United States.
- B) Have a diagnosis of narcolepsy or idiopathic hypersomnia.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/26167/jack-julie-narcolepsy-scholarship>

13) Army Scholarship Foundation Scholarships - \$1,000 - 5 Awards (Deadline: April 15, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be a son or daughter of regular active duty, active duty Reserve, or active duty National Guard U.S. Army members in good standing.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/23993/army-scholarship-foundation-scholarships>

14) Lift Parts Express Scholarship - \$500 – 1 Award (Deadline: April 30, 2024)

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be a current senior in High School and a legal resident of the United States or Canada.
- B) Be enrolled or expected to be enrolled by the Fall of 2024.

Applications can be found by going to:

https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/10417/lift_parts_express_scholarship

15) ASHRAE High School Senior Scholarships - \$3,000 - 4 Awards (Deadline: May 1, 2024)

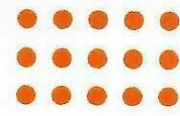
To be eligible for the scholarship a student must:

- A) Be a high school senior with a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0.
- B) Be accepted into an engineering, pre-engineering, or engineering technology program.

Applications can be found by going to:

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/10066/ashrae-high-school-senior-scholarships>

***Receive the Weekly Newsletter by going here:
<https://studentscholarships.org/newsletters>**



SMITH SCHOLARSHIPS

GO TO SCHOOL WITH SMITH!

Alabama High School Seniors
Active School Involvement, Good Grades,
Community Service, Volunteer or Family Support.
Financially Challenged, First Generation,
Disadvantaged but Hardworking.

Apply Oct. 1st - Jan 13, 2024



Scarlett Lara Alcantara
2012 Smith Scholar
B.A. International Studies and Spanish Literature
Juris Doctorate (Summa Cum Laude)

OUR PROGRAM

- Opportunities for Study Abroad ✓
- Supplemental Last Dollar Awards ✓
- Dorm Packs, Computers ✓
- Campus Housing, Meal Plans, Books ✓
- Financial Assistance up to \$20,000 Annually ✓



Visit Our Website
www.smithscholarships.com

Smith Scholarship Foundation Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) Operating organization.
All awards are subject to SSF Guidelines and IRS Compliance.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY:
JANUARY 13, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. CST**

Common Questions Regarding Application and Scholarship **“Also See Additional Instructions/Help Me!”**

- 1. Where do I go on the Website to apply?**
Go to the Smith Scholarship Foundation Website: (www.smithscholarships.com).
- 2. How do I get back on the application?**
Once you have created an “Account,” remember that your “required” email address and password will be your “Keys” to return to the application. You can return to your application as many times as you desire. However, once you click on “Submit,” you cannot return to your application. Note: DO NOT click on “Submit” until you are finished with your application.
- 3. Do I have to finish the entire application at one time?**
No... You do not have to complete it all at once, however, make sure you remember that the deadline to submit your application is January 13, 2024. ALL ATTACHMENTS INCLUDING ALL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION MUST BE UPLOADED OR EMAILED to the Foundation no later than January 13, 2024. Do not wait until the deadline. Past Applicants have had trouble uploading the last day due to large numbers of applications submitted at one time.
- 4. What if I do not know the answers to some of the questions?**
If you are unsure of any of the questions, thoroughly review this document and the sample application containing further explanations and suggestions on the Menu Section of the Scholarship Website, and then contact the Smith Scholarship Office via email (appsupport@smithscholarships.com) for further assistance. Only students and school personnel should submit a request, not family or friends of the applicant, as this scholarship is an accountability program. Parents and guardians should not email or call the office. Please do not call unless you have failed to receive an email response within 48 hours. Be sure to remember your username and password to return to your application for submission.
- 5. Use of AI**
Applicants must write their own essays. Students should obtain review and proofreading from teachers or staff, but all content must be written by the applicant. Use of AI in any form for any task is strictly prohibited. Using AI will be classified as Plagiarism resulting in disqualification or termination. We want the real person. Just tell us your story – remember this is not a writing competition.

6. What if I do not have the Income Tax information for this year yet?

FASFA 2023-24 uses 2021 Tax Information, and the Smith Scholarship Application can be filed starting October 1, 2023. If you are homeless, a ward of the state, or receiving no support from your parents, please follow the FASFA rules carefully so you are properly classified for aid. It is imperative that students obtain homeless or “at risk of homeless” and “unaccompanied” documentation to obtain “independent” classification. Contact your school or district homeless liaison. (Federal Student Aid and Homeless Youth: <https://studentaid.ed.gov>; Dependency Status: <https://fasa.ed.gov>fotw1920>help>).

The new FASFA form allows you to directly upload IRS tax information while completing the new form. The FASFA application must be filed before SSF application is submitted and a copy of the Student Aid Report (“SAR”) and Student Aid Index (“SAI”) attached. You may be required to supply an unredacted copy of ISIR from your university for verification. If unusual circumstances prevent you from submitting the FASFA, contact SSF by email as soon as possible with a written explanation of steps taken to provide the same information. DACA students, while not eligible for aid, should still complete the application and provide the attachments.

7. Can I mail the application in?

No. The application is not formatted for printout. Therefore, if you have issues submitting your application, call us and we will help. Ask your school counselor to use a school’s computer if public libraries are closed. The application can also be completed on a smartphone or mobile device. However, it is recommended that essays be prepared on a computer. If you have no way to complete the application, call us and we will provide assistance.

8. What if I do not have information for “Mother” or “Father?”

Enter UNKNOWN and make notes on your application explaining your circumstances as directed on the Application instructions, in significant detail to allow SSF to understand your current living arrangements and what events led to your situation. WARNING “Unknown” without accompanying explanation will not be accepted and your application will not be considered. Review the sample form for assistance.

9. What if I have not taken the ACT or SAT?

List the date you are scheduled to take the ACT/SAT and follow up by providing your scores. You must take the ACT/SAT and provide scores to be eligible for this scholarship. Ask your counselor or Upward Bound representative for help in obtaining a waiver for the fee and registering. See www.act.org. No minimum ACT is required.

Free College Application Dates! Apply for the Free Application Waiver! Use the waiver to apply during the free application college dates.

Check with Counselors and online for the 2023-2024 dates that all students can apply to most Alabama colleges for free.

10. What if I have not applied for college admission?

Apply now if possible and list the schools you plan to apply for later and why you prefer that institution. Apply for College ASAP. Utilize application fee waivers from your counselor or Upward Bound Program to avoid costs. Deadlines for University Scholarships are early so review scholarships offered by several institutions. The SSF Application requires that you apply to at least 3 other scholarships, including scholarships provided by each of your preferred institutions. Institutions have scholarships that are automatically included with your College Application, but other specialized scholarships require separate applications.

Example. If you list 2 colleges as preferred, you must apply to each college and their scholarship program(s) and an additional outside scholarship. If you apply to 3 colleges and all 3 of their scholarship programs, you have met your minimum requirement of 3 “other” scholarships.

Examples of College Scholarship Deadlines

Auburn University has a mid-January 2024 deadline for freshmen to be accepted and then students must apply using “AUSOM” by February 15, 2024. See Auburn's website.

University of Montevallo – Admission applications must be submitted before students qualify for college scholarships. See “Award Spring” on the website. Most scholarships for freshman must be completed by March 1st.

Troy University – See Troy's “Online Scholarships” and the “Scholarships Portal” on the Troy website for deadlines as they may vary by campus and scholarship type.

- Leadership for Freshman: 12/1/2023
- Legacy for Freshman: 12/1/2023
- Foundation Sponsored March 1st.
- Music and Band Scholarships – Complete Academic Works Application
- Theatre and Dance Scholarships – Complete Academic Works Application.

USA – Some scholarships are automatic for freshmen; others require a separate scholarship application. Apply at “JagSPOT.” December 1, 2023, is application deadline to be considered for general and departmental scholarships.

UAB – Requires students to submit the admissions applications prior to December 1st for all ACT and GPA scholarships. See “BSMART,” the Blazer scholarship management. Scholarship applications for BSMART begin August 1, 2023.

UAH allows students to retake the ACT even after admission to increasing scholarship eligibility.

- Applications for competitive scholarships start August 1, 2023.
- Competitive Scholarships using the UAH Scholarship Application priority deadline is December 15, 2023. See the UAH website for deadlines.

JSU offers Merit Scholarships based upon ACT/GPA scores with applications.

- Visit the website. Music, Drama, and other scholarships require application and audition with specific school departments.

Please visit college websites and contact scholarship personnel at your selected Public Alabama universities. The examples provided may not be updated and should not be relied upon.

See the SSF website for a list of additional scholarships that applicants should also apply for when seeking financial assistance for college.

11. If I am a home-schooled graduating senior, may I apply?

Yes. Homeschooled, private school, and alternative school students are all eligible to apply if they are Alabama residents. Verification of residency is required for all recipients.

12. Q: If I am already a college student may I apply?

If you are attending a community college, you may apply for a scholarship to transfer after completing a two-year program. Contact SSF by email for instructions.

13. Q: Must I be a U.S. Citizen?

No. DACA students are eligible. Applicants must be Alabama residents applying for Alabama Public Universities and Colleges.

14. Q: What grade point average must an applicant have to apply?

C+. A copy of the student's transcript must be attached to the application.

15. Q: What ACT/SAT score must an applicant have to apply?

There is no required test score, but a student must complete the ACT or SAT test and a copy of those scores must be attached. The student must also meet admission requirements for university admittance. Necessary scores vary from institution to institution but 17 is typically the lowest ACT that will be accepted at many traditional four-year schools. It is advisable to retake your ACT several times to increase your scores. Ask your high school counselor or Upward Bound or local TRIO program coordinator for waiver forms to cover the fees of these tests. Apply during Free Application Week. Use study guides and practice tests available online and at your local library.

16. Q: Do letters of recommendation (“LOR”) have to be attached?

Yes. The applicant must submit three letters of recommendation. Ask people who know you well to complete the LOR form. Make sure the person knows the name of the scholarship for which you are applying, your potential careers, area of study or passion, and personal information such as activities, awards, and any hardships. The sincere heartfelt letters make the best impression as they help accurately portray the applicant. The level of professional standing of the writer is of little or no importance. Letters of Recommendation are crucial to identifying deserving students. A “LOR” Form containing specific questions will be sent to the people you nominate.

17. **My Counselor / Recommender did not receive an email from the Smith Foundation to complete.**
Your Recommender will not receive any communication from the Smith Foundation. An email will be sent from a Third-Party Program called, "Grant Interface." Please be sure to ask them to check their Junk Mail. Several schools block outside emails. Ask for a personal email to avoid this delay.
18. **Will I be notified when my application is received?**
No. The online scholarship application program will indicate if your application has been successfully submitted. The application program will not permit an applicant to submit unless 2 LOR's have been uploaded to the online application. You must check on your LOR's.
19. **May a recipient live off campus?**
No. ALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS MUST LIVE ON CAMPUS FOR ALL FOUR YEARS. Special accommodation may be made for students with disabilities or participants in cooperative education programs.
20. **Sororities and Fraternities**
Recipients may only pledge social sororities/fraternities after completion of their freshman year. Non-negotiable.
21. **Do I have to attend the same college the whole time?**
No. It is preferred that the scholarship recipient attend the same school for four years to obtain a degree during that time frame. Requests for transfers may be made under SSF guidelines.
22. **Can I work and go to school?**
YES, IF IT DOES NOT EXCEED 15 HOURS A WEEK WHILE CLASSES ARE IN SESSION AND JOBS CANNOT INTERFERE WITH YOUR GRADES. Students may work as many hours as they choose during school breaks. Work Study and on-campus employment are best.
23. **Will I be allowed to do work-study?**
Absolutely. It is wise to apply for work-study jobs at the institution as soon as possible as those positions fill up quickly. Work-study jobs are encouraged since they are on campus and the need for a car is often avoided.
24. **Will I be penalized for any other scholarships that I may have received?**
No. This allows the Foundation to efficiently utilize its funds for the benefit of more students. The Smith Scholarship is a "last dollar supplemental scholarship." SSF remits payment only after all other scholarships and aid are applied to the student's college bill, the remaining eligible education cost will then be funded. Scholarships are accolades to be included on your resume. Every \$ you receive allows more students to receive funding.
25. **What does the Full scholarship pay for?**
Smith is a Supplemental Last Dollar Scholarship. Payment for tuition, room, board, books, and required fees are calculated after the application of all other available aid is applied to your student bill. Payments of \$500 up to \$20,000 each year along with dorm packs and

opportunities to receive professional attire, winter clothing, and study abroad conditioned on compliance with SSF guidelines and individual scholar needs. Partial scholarships will vary in financial and non-financial assistance. All funding is dependent on continued compliance with SSF guidelines and rules of accountability, GPA, and giving back.

26. May a recipient of the scholarship use the funds to attend any university, college, junior college, or technical school?

Each recipient's situation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the student's preference, grades, test scores, anticipated major, proximity to family, and other available financial aid. No recipient is guaranteed attendance at their preferred school or a specific amount of financial funding. Recipients are typically provided multiple school options. The selection made by the Board of Trustees, who are Smith Alum and Education Professionals, is non-negotiable.

27. What if I am only interested in attending a specific University or Institution?

The selection of an educational institution should be based on several factors related to financial need and academic readiness. Family or personal allegiance to a specific university (often due to sports) will not be considered an acceptable factor in evaluating a student's desired school. If an applicant is unwilling to consider a variety of educational options and is insistent on attending a specific school, they should probably not apply.

28. Are recipients guaranteed or entitled to a specific financial amount of funding?

No. Funding and program participation vary pursuant to SSF Guidelines related to a student's needs and compliance with SSF Programs. Awards are made of \$500 up to \$20,000 for undergraduate awards made in 2024.

29. What if I do not like rules and have difficulty adhering to instructions?

The SSF Programs both reward and require continued focus on education and volunteer opportunities. Being a Smith Scholar is a privilege and requires a very high degree of motivation, accountability, and devotion to the SSF mission. Carefully evaluate whether this scholarship is appropriate for you before applying. If you do not follow rules or have issues with compliance with accountability and ethic-based goals, you will not be happy in this program.

SSF guidelines answer many of these questions and will control and supersede the information contained herein. See "Additional Instructions" / "Help Me!"