

## SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA WORKSHEET GUIDE

This guide explains how selected criteria determine how a scholarship is awarded.

### HARD CRITERIA

Hard criteria are the mandatory requirements a student must meet to be considered for a scholarship. If a student does not meet even one of these criteria, they will not be included in the list of potential recipients. The scholarship cannot be awarded if no students meet the hard criteria. Criteria should not be so restrictive that they make awarding the scholarship difficult.

### SOFT CRITERIA

Soft criteria allow donors to prioritize one student over another. If you choose to use soft criteria, assign a numerical value to indicate its importance. A value of "1" means it is the most important soft requirement, while a "4" means it is a preference but not essential. The more closely an applicant matches your soft requirements, the more points they will receive, increasing their chance of being awarded the scholarship.

### SELECTION PROCESS

Students are first filtered according to hard criteria and then ranked based on soft criteria. Next, three mandatory essay questions are evaluated and scored by five to seven independent reviewers. This entire process is conducted anonymously to ensure that students are selected objectively based on the donor's criteria.

### SAMPLE CRITERIA TO CONSIDER

- **Need:** Consider whether a student's financial or personal circumstances should be considered. Financial need is assessed by FAFSA scores or free and reduced lunch eligibility.
- **Merit/Academic Rank:** Specify if a student's academic performance or rank should be considered.
- **Academic Requirements:** Includes enrollment in specific courses or plans to attend a particular type of postsecondary institution.
- **Interest:** Demonstrated interest in a topic or activity, assessed through participation in clubs, pursuit of a specific degree, or intent to work in a certain field.

**Your questions and feedback are important to us. Please feel free to contact us at [wisdfoundation.org](http://wisdfoundation.org) or call (972) 429-3025. Thank you for your generosity.**

**Please mail this completed form:** Wylie ISD Education Foundation | 951 S Ballard Ave. | Wylie, TX 75098

## SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA WORKSHEET

Your generous offer to award a Wylie ISD Education Foundation scholarship will impact the lives of students in Wylie ISD. To ensure your preferences are met, please complete the questionnaire below and return the signed form to the Foundation office by December 10.

**Preferred Scholarship Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS

- If you are not interested in certain criteria, leave the section blank. Only complete what applies to you.
- Check the box for a hard or soft requirement. If it's a soft requirement, assign a numerical value (1-4) indicating its importance, with "1" being very important and "4" being very unimportant.
- **Hard requirements** are *mandatory* for a student to be considered.
- **Soft requirements** *allow flexibility*, with applicants earning more points based on how well they meet them.

### CRITERIA

1. **Need-based (economically disadvantaged):**  
 Hard requirement       Soft requirement      Value: \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Academic Rank:**  
 Hard requirement       Soft requirement      Value: \_\_\_\_\_      Class rank percentage: \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Membership in Organizations:**  
 Hard requirement       Soft requirement      Value: \_\_\_\_\_      Organization(s): \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Leadership in School-Sponsored Activities:**  
 Hard requirement       Soft requirement      Value: \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Participation in School-Sponsored Sports:**  
 Hard requirement       Soft requirement      Value: \_\_\_\_\_      Sport(s): \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Community Volunteering**  
 Hard requirement       Soft requirement      Value: \_\_\_\_\_

### GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP PREFERENCES

7. **Preferred Type of Higher Education:**
  - Vocational/Trade Schools
  - Faith-Based Institutions
  - Specific College (name): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Hard requirement       Soft requirement      Value: \_\_\_\_\_

