

Counselor Instructions NOCA Scholarships

1. Publicity Schools should advise **all Seniors** of these scholarships
2. Award & Eligibility See Award Page for Various Awards and Eligibility Requirements

3. Selection Criteria:

- 1) Academic Excellence
- 2) Extracurricular Activities
- 3) Essay of Approximately 300 words typed
- 4) Letters of Recommendation
- 5) Appearance/preparation of application (bonus)

4. Application Procedures:

Read carefully and follow completely – submit by deadlines

- 1) Only 1 (one) candidate for each scholarship may be submitted from a member secondary school signed by a NOCA member (only current NOCA members who have paid dues by January 30, 2026, may submit an application)
- 2) All NOCA members should encourage deserving candidates to submit their application to their secondary school counseling office.
- 3) Completed applications will be screened by School Counselors and each school will forward 1 (one) candidate's application and supporting documents for each scholarship to:
Sarah Lombardo, Wilson High School (address below)
- 4) Applications must include **ONLY and ALL** of the following:
 - a) Completed Application Form
 - b) Two Letters of Recommendation
 - c) Student Essay – 1 page only
 - d) Transcript and Current Report Card
 - e) Signature of Current NOCA Member

5. Deadline

Students will have to submit applications to their Home School Counseling Office by **February 24, 2026**. Counselors must give all students opportunity to apply and then pick their school's applicants for each scholarship after February 24th.

High School's must submit their finalist applications by **March 3, 2026**.

Counselor: Email applications to: SLombardo@wilsoncsd.org

7. Announcement: The winners will receive their awards at their home school Award Ceremony.

Niagara Orleans Counselors Association (NOCA) Scholarship Application Information for Seniors

- Selection Criteria:
- 1) Academic Excellence
 - 2) Extracurricular Activities
 - 3) Essay of Approximately 300 words typed
 - 4) Letters of Recommendation
 - 5) Preparation of application (bonus for typed)

Completed applications will be screened by your own School Counselors who will forward one candidates' application (for each scholarship) to the NOCA Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

Applications must include **ONLY** the following:

- a) Completed Scholarship Application Form
- b) Two Letters of Recommendation
- c) Student Essay – 1 page only
- d) Transcript and Current Report Card
- e) Counselor Signature of Current NOCA Member

Deadline: Submit to your Home School Guidance/Counseling Office by **February 24, 2026**

Announcement: The winners will receive recognition (scholarships) at their home school Awards Ceremony.

Scholarships

(Scholarship criteria on following page)

NOCA Merit Scholarship

\$1000 scholarship given to one (1) graduating seniors

NOCA Phoenix Scholarship

\$1000 scholarship given to one (1) graduating senior who has “risen up” in some way while in high school

NOCA - Niagara University Scholarship

Two scholarships to be awarded for \$1,500 per student per year for four years. Maximum total for each scholarship is \$6,000

NOCA - Genesee Community College Scholarship

\$500 scholarship to student attending GCC

NOCA – SUNY Niagara

\$1,000 scholarship to student attending SUNY Niagara

NOCA- Career and Technical Education Scholarship

\$1000 scholarship given to one (1) graduating senior who has completed a two-year CTE program at the Niagara or Orleans CTE Center.

NOCA – Canisius University Scholarship

\$1,250 per year for four years. Maximum total of scholarship is \$5,000

NOCA Merit Scholarship

Award \$1000 scholarship awarded directly to the student. There will be **ONE Merit Scholar**.

Eligibility 1) Each candidate must be a Senior, graduating in June, at a participating member school of the NOCA.
2) The student must plan on enrolling full-time next year at an accredited two or four-year college.

NOCA - Phoenix Scholarship

Award \$1000 scholarship awarded directly to the student. There will be **One Phoenix Scholarship**.

Eligibility 1) Each candidate must be a Senior, graduating in June, at a participating member school of the NOCA
2) The student must plan on enrolling full-time next year at an accredited two or four-year college
3) The student has achieved in the face of a pervasive and overwhelming obstacle or crisis. It may be personal adversity or school difficulties over which they have experienced success. The student's obstacles and triumphs should be addressed in the one-page essay.

NOCA – Niagara University Scholarship

Award Two scholarships to be awarded for \$1,500 per student per year for four years. Maximum total for each scholarship is \$6,000. One scholarship will be awarded strictly based on academic and the other scholarship will be based on academics and financial need.

Eligibility 1) Each candidate must be a Senior graduating in June at a participating member school of NOCA.
2) The student must plan on enrolling full-time next year at Niagara University
3) Maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.75 at Niagara University to remain eligible for this scholarship.

NOCA - Genesee Community College Scholarship

Award \$500 tuition scholarship for the first year at Genesee Community College (GCC).

Eligibility 1) Each candidate must be a Senior graduating in June at a participating member school of the NOCA.
2) The student must plan on enrolling full-time next year at Genesee Community College.
3) The student must maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5 at GCC for the second semester payment.

NOCA – SUNY Niagara Scholarship

Award \$500 tuition scholarship for the Fall following graduation and \$500 for the following Spring semester totaling \$1000 for first year at SUNY Niagara.

Eligibility 1) Each candidate must be a Senior graduating in June at a participating member school of the NOCA.
2) The student must plan on enrolling full-time next year at Niagara County Community College
3) The student must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75 at NCCC for the 2nd semester payment.

NOCA – Career and Technical Education Scholarship

Award \$1000 scholarship awarded directly to student.

Eligibility 1) Student must be a graduating senior who will be completing a two-year career and technical education program at the Niagara or Orleans CTE Center.
2) Student must be pursuing additional education or training in their career field over the next year.
3) Student must provide one of their two letters of recommendation from an instructor or staff member at their Orleans or Niagara CTE center. **Please include attendance from CTE program junior and senior year.**
4) Include in your Essay the value of your CTE education as it relates to your career goal.

NOCA – Canisius University Scholarship

Award \$1,250 tuition scholarship per year for four years. Maximum total of \$5,000. Scholarships may be awarded based on academic and financial need.

Eligibility 1) Each candidate must be a Senior graduating in June at a participating member school of the NOCA.
2) The student must be accepted and enroll full-time at Canisius University next year
3) A minimum G.P.A. of 2.75 at Canisius University is required to remain eligible for this award.

Honors and Awards:

Year(s) Received

Community/Volunteer Activities

Yrs Volunteered (9, 10, 11, 12)

Hrs/Wk or Total

| Community/Volunteer Activities | Yrs Volunteered (9, 10, 11, 12) | Hrs/Wk or Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Employment/Internships

Position

Years Employed

Hrs/Wk

| Employment/Internships | Position | Years Employed | Hrs/Wk |
|------------------------|----------|----------------|--------|
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

B) Student Essay On One Page Only: write an essay that addresses all of the following points:

- Explain your long term career goal and what educational path you will use to achieve this.
- How has an activity or experience that you were involved in contributed to your career and life goals.
- Tell us why you deserve this scholarship (explain what sets you apart from other deserving students).

- **For all Colleges**-Include your college choice and why attending this college is important to you
- **CTE** – Include a list of skills/accomplishments.
- **Phoenix**-Address the obstacles you faced and how you triumphed to achieve success.

C) Letters of Recommendation (2)

D) Attach Transcript and Report Card

E) NOCA Member Signature: _____