

THOMAS AUSTIN FINCH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2025-2026

Statement of Purpose: To provide financial assistance to college-bound high school seniors from the Thomasville area who clearly demonstrate financial need, strong academic record, solid personal character, and willingness to work.

Criteria:

- Financial need (validated by FAFSA – Student Aid Index). **NOTE: *Total annual cost of school to be attended will be considered in determining level of financial need***
- Academic merit (validated by school transcript)
- Character (validated by two letters of reference by school personnel)
- Willingness to pay for portion of school cost through work study and/or employment
- Renewable for up to four years (eight semesters) for full-time students in good standing with the school, provided a minimum GPA of 2.5 (of 4.0) is maintained
- Student must be a legal resident of Thomasville, North Carolina (27360 zip code)

Format:

- \$9000 per year (\$4500 per semester) for students attending a two or four-year college or university; a maximum of eight semesters will be funded. (Note: the scholarship amount for 2026-27 will be \$9000, subsequent yearly amounts TBD)
- A check will be mailed directly to the educational institution upon notification of enrollment by that institution, and the scholarship money can be applied to tuition, student fees, housing and books/educational materials

Application process: Students will apply during the senior year of high school by obtaining an application from the high school guidance office. The completed application should be returned to the guidance office by the designated date, along with:

- most recent high school transcript, including SAT/ACT scores
- copy of Student Aid Index from completed FAFSA form
- a recent photograph of student (will not be returned)
- two letters of reference from school staff members (at least one from a classroom teacher in a core curriculum course)
- addendum with country of citizenship and social security number of student
- ***No application will be considered without complete submittal of required information.***

Application calendar: For all students seeking to apply during the 2025-2026 academic year, **applications must be submitted to the high school guidance office by noon on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.**

Selection process: Applications will be accepted from all eligible students through noon March 4, 2026. A screening committee will read the applications and identify finalists to be interviewed by the committee. Interviews will be scheduled for finalists in late-April or early-May and finalists will be personally contacted re: the scheduled times. Recipients will be announced at the year-end high school awards assemblies.

T. AUSTIN FINCH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

STUDENT INFORMATION

Full Legal Name:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Permanent Address:

Phone:

E-mail Address:

Gender: ____ Female ____ Male

Ethnic Background: How would you describe yourself? (Optional)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ African-American/Black
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ White, Non-Hispanic origin
- ☐ Other: please specify

In order of preference, please list up to five colleges or universities to which you have applied or plan to apply (place an asterisk * by the schools to which you have been accepted):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

High school attended:

Did you receive a GED?

Were you home schooled?

Class rank at end of your junior year: ____ out of ____ as of _____ (date)

Guidance counselor's or school administrator's signature verifying that school information is correct:

Name _____ **Date** ____ / ____ / ____

FINANCIAL AID

Do you intend to apply for need-based financial aid through the college or university using the Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during the period this scholarship application would cover? Yes _____ No _____

Amount of funds saved for college by you: \$ _____

Amount of funds saved for college by others: \$ _____

Student Aid Index (SAI) as determined by the FAFSA: \$ _____

Do you plan to work during the school year to earn funds for education? Yes _____ No _____

Do you plan to work during the summer to earn funds for education? Yes _____ No _____

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

With whom do you currently live?

- ☐ Live alone
- ☐ Both parents
- ☐ Mother
- ☐ Father
- ☐ Father and step parent
- ☐ Mother and step parent
- ☐ Someone other than a parent (please specify): _____

Biological father living ____ or deceased ____

Biological father's occupation if living _____

Employer _____

Total annual income: \$ _____

Biological mother living ____ or deceased ____

Biological mother's occupation if living _____

Employer _____

Total annual income: \$ _____

Step-parent living ____ or deceased ____

Step-parent's occupation if living _____

Employer _____

Total annual income: \$ _____

If you are living with someone other than a biological or step-parent, please provide their information:

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Total annual income: \$ _____

How many children under age 25, other than yourself, are in your family? _____

What are their current ages? ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____

How many will be in college next year (other than yourself)? _____

ACTIVITIES / SCHOLARSHIPS / AWARDS

Please list any hobbies and special interests:

Please list, in order of importance to you, school and community clubs / activities / athletics in which you have participated:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Please list, in order of importance to you, any significant academic, athletic, or other awards:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Please list any other scholarships or grants that you will receive, if any:

- | Name | \$ Amount Per Year | Duration |
|------|--------------------|----------|
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |

Please list other scholarships or grants for which you have applied, if any:

- | Name | \$ Amount Per Year | Duration |
|------|--------------------|----------|
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |

SHORT ESSAYS (Please attach a separate page for answers if more space is needed)

1. Please describe any special circumstances that affect your family's ability to fund your college expenses.

2. Briefly describe why you want to attend college and why you deserve a T. Austin Finch scholarship.

3. Describe five things you have done in your life that, taken together, tells us who you are.

I pledge that the information on this application is true, to the best of my knowledge.

Student signature: _____

THOMAS AUSTIN FINCH SCHOLARSHIP –ADDENDUM

In order to comply with requirements of the U.S. Patriot Act, all scholarship recipients must provide the *country of citizenship* of the student and the student's *social security number*.

Please complete the form below, sign and attach to the student application.

Country of citizenship: _____

Social security number: _____

Signature of student: _____ Date: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____