

Michael D. Eisner College of Education (MDECOE) Scholarship FAQ
2023-24 Application Deadline: 11:59 PM, Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Q: Who is eligible to apply for MDECOE scholarships?

A: *In general*, students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- 1) Current enrollment in courses for a [degree or credential program](#) housed in one of the following departments:
 - [Deaf Studies](#)
 - [Educational Leadership and Policy Studies](#)
 - [Educational Psychology and Counseling](#)
 - [Elementary Education](#)
 - [Secondary Education](#)
 - [Special Education](#)
- 2) Have a current [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) on file at CSUN (even if there are no plans to take out a loan) and a need for financial assistance.
- 3) Enrollment in at least the minimum number of units for both the fall and spring semesters of the same academic year (see “**What are my responsibilities as an MDECOE scholarship recipient?**”). For example, a credential student that is enrolled in at least six units who wins a scholarship in Fall 2023 must be enrolled in at least six units for the Spring 2024 semester in order to receive MDECOE scholarship monies.
- 4) Have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Some scholarships may also require a specific GPA within their major or program.

All scholarships are open to qualified applicants without regard to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or other protected status.

Q: I am currently an Intent to Apply (ITA) / Postbaccalaureate Unclassified (PBU) / Open University student. Can I apply for an MDECOE scholarship?

A: No, students in any of these categories are not considered to be matriculated in either a degree or credential program at CSUN and are thus ineligible to apply for MDECOE scholarships, which are awarded as financial aid.

Q: Can international students apply for an MDECOE scholarship?

A: No, as per the [CSUN International and Exchange Student Center \(IESC\)](#), international students are not eligible for financial aid at CSUN. However, they may still be able to apply to other scholarships that do not require a FAFSA. For more information, please contact the MDECOE Dean’s office at (818) 677-2590 or consult the [International Student Handbook](#), or the IESC’s [Scholarship Opportunities for International Students](#).

Q: Can AB 540 or DACA students apply for an MDECOE scholarship?

A: Yes, as long as there is a completed [California Dream Act Application](#) on file for the current academic year and the scholarship does not state that the selectee must be a US citizen. For more information, please consult the [California Dream Act](#) section of the CSUN Financial Aid web site.

Q: When are MDECOE scholarships available?

A: Students enrolled in a course within an MDECOE department will receive a CSUN e-mail with attachments describing available scholarships and an application link during the fall semester. The same information will be forwarded to department offices for distribution. ***Please note that receiving this notification e-mail does not guarantee your eligibility to apply for scholarships.***

Q: I hear that these scholarships are competitive – should I even bother applying?

A: While the number of overall applicants and award amounts vary from year to year, we strongly encourage all qualified students to apply. Availability for specific scholarships varies every year, and several scholarships are targeted toward students in specific programs; thus, if you are eligible for a certain scholarship, you should submit an application – and students are allowed to apply for up to three scholarships using the same application form.

Q: Do you accept mailed or faxed applications?

A: No, we can only accept electronic versions of scholarship applications. **Please send your complete application package using your unique application link no later than 11:59 PM on Tuesday, October 31, 2023**, and try to avoid sending your application more than once.

Students with two or more applications on file after the deadline has passed will be considered ineligible. You will receive a confirmation e-mail once the application has been entered into a receipt log.

Q: Which scholarships target certain programs?

A: If a scholarship targets a certain audience, it will be specified in the scholarship profile.

Q: Where can I get help putting together my scholarship packet?

A: In addition to CSUN's Learning Resource Center and peer review, students may choose to attend our scholarship preparation workshop. **The Fall 2023 workshop will be held via Zoom on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.** Link to registration: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8h2xzt>.

Q: None of the scholarships I'm applying for specifies anything about letters of recommendation on their profiles. Do I still need to submit letters?

A: Yes, you must upload at least two letters of recommendation to be included with the application. Some scholarships have specific requirements for one of the two letters; please review scholarship profiles carefully to ensure that requirements are being met.

Q: Should we send letters of recommendation directly to the MDECOE Dean's Office?

A: No. Please have letters sent to you directly so that you may include them with the rest of your application.

Q: How is each MDECOE scholarship application evaluated?

A: Once the application deadline has passed, the MDECOE Dean's office screens the submitted applications to ensure that each applicant has met eligibility requirements for each scholarship, including GPA verification. The applications are then converted to high-quality .pdf files and all personally identifiable information is redacted prior to distributing to reviewers. Please note that we will not return any part of your application to you, so you should keep a copy of your complete application packet for your records.

The [Equity and Student Affairs Committee](#) (ESAC) within the MDECOE serves as a scholarship screening and selection committee for scholarships offered via the annual scholarship competition. Additionally, the Association of Retired Faculty serves as the screening and selection committee specifically for the Phil and Shirley Hansen ARF Scholarship in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education, and the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) Foothill Chapter evaluates applications for the CalRTA Foothill Chapter Scholarship. **Finalists for the Dan and Cindy Chernow, Rebecca Schrag, and Marilyn Joshua Williams scholarships may be asked to participate in a separately scheduled interview with the donor(s).**

All essays will be scored using a rubric based on the following criteria:

- 1) **Persuasiveness of writing:** Strong connection to scholarship prompt with clear and compelling supporting evidence
- 2) **Quality of writing:** Free of errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar
- 3) **Service:** Demonstration of level of service that is clearly related to the particular goals of the scholarship

Please note that it is your responsibility to adhere to any maximum word counts published in the scholarship profiles for your application essays.

All recommendation letters will be scored using a rubric based on the following criteria:

- 1) **Adherence to requirements in scholarship profile** (if applicable)
- 2) **Written on official letterhead and dated within one year of application deadline**
- 3) **Contains evidence of exceptional achievement and/or contribution to university and/or community and quality of work**

Q: When will I find out the results of the annual scholarship competition?

A: We finish our reviews during the last week of the fall semester. All applicants, regardless of result, will receive a notification via the csun.edu e-mail address ONLY. Please check your junk mail/spam accounts for this e-mail if you do not see a message in your inbox.

Q: Can a student win an MDECOE scholarship and then apply again the following year?

A: Yes.

Q: Does the MDECOE offer any other monetary awards to students besides the ones featured in the annual scholarship competition?

A: Yes. However, these awards and/or scholarships are administered by the individual departments themselves; thus, you would have to contact your specific department for more information.

Q: What are my responsibilities as an MDECOE scholarship recipient?

A: Students who have been selected as awardees are expected to fulfill all of the following:

- ✓ Continue to abide by the [Student Conduct Code](#) as outlined in the CSUN Catalog. Students found to be in violation of this code will be subject to scholarship rescindment, fund garnishment, and removal from the record of selectees.
- ✓ Enroll in the following spring semester of the same academic year. Upon verification of minimum enrollment (12 units for undergraduates, 6 units for credential / graduate / doctoral students), the Financial Aid and Scholarship office will release the award. **Awardees who do not meet the minimum enrollment requirement are ineligible to receive scholarship funds from our program.**
- ✓ Write a thank you letter to your respective scholarship donor(s) to show appreciation for their commitment to your education. We will forward your letter to the donor(s) for you upon receipt, and funds will be released upon receipt of your letter(s). Details will be outlined in the award notification.
- ✓ Provide a digital photo of yourself and a short answer to a prompt that we will provide. This information will be available in the award notification and will also be forwarded to your scholarship donor.
- ✓ Attend an in-person scholarship reception in March. Details of the event will be provided within the award notification.

Q: When and how will scholarship winners receive their money?

A: Aside from attending the scholarship reception, after a recipient has fulfilled all scholarship responsibilities (see previous question above), an award will post to the individual's student account within eight to ten weeks. Awardees who are unable to meet these responsibilities must notify the MDECOE Dean's office by sending an e-mail to mdecoe.scholarships@csun.edu.