Q: Who is eligible to apply for MDECOE scholarships?
A: In general, students must meet the following requirements:

1) Current enrollment in a degree or credential program within the MDECOE.  
2) Have a current Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application on file and a need for financial assistance.  
3) Enrollment in both the fall and spring semesters of the same academic year. For example, a student who wins a scholarship in Fall 2018 must be enrolled in the Spring 2019 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: 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 Resource Guide for International Students, or the CSUN Financial Aid web site.

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 in approximately late September. 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 electronically submitted applications?
A: No, due to issues with image quality we can only accept hard copy versions of scholarship applications. These application packets may be mailed or hand delivered to the MDECOE Dean’s Office on or before the specified deadline for each competition cycle.

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: Students may choose to attend our scholarship preparation workshop. This event is held on a Saturday in mid-October.

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.

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 Memorial Scholarship. Finalists for the Dan and Cindy Chernow, Rebecca Schrag, and Marilyn Joshua Williams scholarships may be asked to participate in an in-person interview with the donor(s).

Q: When will I find out the results of the annual scholarship competition?
A: Results are typically published during the last week of the fall semester. All applicants will receive a notification via CSUN e-mail.

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 are selected as awardees must fulfill all of the following:

- Enroll in the following spring semester of the same academic year. Upon verification of enrollment, the Financial Aid and Scholarship department will release the award.
- 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. Additionally, you must e-mail a copy to the MDECOE Dean’s office, and funds will be released upon receipt of your letters. Details will be outlined in the award notification.
- Attend an on-campus scholarship reception in March. Details of the event will be provided within the award notification.
- Provide a digital photo of yourself and a fifty (50) word biography to include in the scholarship program; details will be provided to awardees during the spring semester. This information will also be provided to your scholarship donor.

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 four to six weeks. Awardees who are unable to meet these responsibilities must notify the MDECOE Dean’s office by sending an e-mail to eliza.corpuz@csun.edu.