



SCHOLARSHIPS FAQ

How do I apply?

- Complete the Tri-C admission: tri-c.edu/get-started
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa (Tri-C school code: 003040)
- Complete the Tri-C general scholarship application:
- Maintain eligibility (typically a 2.0-plus GPA and minimum credit enrollment)
- Check your Tri-C email weekly for award notifications.

What is the deadline for applying for scholarships?

- Priority deadline: April 1 – Applicants who apply by this date receive priority consideration.
- Final awarding period – Scholarships may continue to be awarded through Oct. 31 or until all funding has been allocated.
- Competition and completion scholarships – These have different deadlines, so you need to check the specific dates listed under Honors and Scholars Programs at tri-c.edu/mandelscholars
- The new scholarship application generally opens each year by March 1.

What scholarships are available?

Once you complete the online scholarship application and the FAFSA, we will match your profile with many possible awards. Tri-C students may have access to more than 200 scholarship opportunities that cover a wide range of majors, interests, backgrounds and criteria.

These include:

- Financial needs-based
- Merit-based (GPA, academic excellence)
- Program/major-specific
- Participation (Athletic, Student Life)

Do you have scholarships for noncredit programs?

Yes, Tri-C offers many scholarships for our Workforce Development and Training programs. Visit tri-c.edu/workforce for additional information.

I received a scholarship from a company or organization. Where should I send it?

Checks can be sent to:
Cuyahoga Community College
P.O. Box 92928
Cleveland, Ohio 44194-2928

Can an international student receive a scholarship?

Yes. Students can also visit the International Education Financial Aid website at iefa.org or the Smart Student Guide for Studying in the U.S. at edupass.org for additional opportunities.

Do I need to be registered to receive a scholarship?

You do not have to be registered for classes to initially receive a scholarship award. A scholarship can be offered to you even if you have not enrolled yet. However, your enrollment status affects whether you can keep and use the scholarship funds.

Credit hour guidelines:

- Full-time enrollment (12 credit hours or more):
Scholarships are generally awarded based on full-time status. This is the safest way to ensure you receive the full award amount.
- Less than 12 credit hours:
Your scholarship may be adjusted, reduced, replaced or removed depending on how many hours you are taking.
- Minimum recommended enrollment – 6 credit hours:
Even if full-time enrollment is preferred, we strongly recommend that you enroll in at least 6 credit hours to maintain eligibility unless the scholarship specifically states otherwise.
- Dropping classes or withdrawing completely:
Falling below the minimum required hours or withdrawing from all classes can result in losing both current and future scholarship funding.

In short:

You can be awarded a scholarship without being registered, but to keep and receive the money, you usually need to be enrolled by the fourth week of the start of the semester — ideally 12 credit hours, with 6 credit hours as the typical minimum to stay eligible. Maintain at least a 2.5 per semester and cumulative GPA, unless that scholarship requires a higher GPA.

Do you offer scholarships for transfer students?

Yes, you can view the Transfer Scholarship Opportunities by visiting tri-c.edu/scholarships.

When will I find out if I received a scholarship?

You will be notified of your scholarship status by email. All email communications are sent to your Tri-C student email address.

- First, you will receive an email informing you that a change has been made to your financial aid award package.
- Then, you will receive a second email with details about the scholarship and any required next steps.

After the priority awarding deadlines have passed, you will be informed of your final application status.

- If you are not eligible or if Tri-C is unable to award you a scholarship, you will receive an email within 45 days after your application is accepted.
- Even if you are not selected initially, your application will remain on file for the entire academic year and may be reconsidered for a later term if your status changes or additional funding becomes available.

I am graduating early. Can I receive my future award now?

Normally no, but it depends on the specific scholarship criteria, the total award amount and your enrollment hours. In most cases, the combined scholarship awards cannot exceed the total cost of tuition for that semester.

Can I receive multiple Tri-C Foundation scholarships?

Our goal is to provide financial support to as many qualified students as possible. Due to limited scholarship funding, we cannot guarantee more than one scholarship per student at this time. Once all eligible students have been considered and awarded, we will revisit previously awarded students if additional scholarship opportunities become available.

Will receiving a scholarship affect my federal financial aid eligibility?

Sometimes, yes, receiving a scholarship can affect your federal financial aid eligibility, especially if your financial aid award package is close to the maximum allowable Cost of Attendance (COA). If you are receiving other financial assistance, such as federal and state grants or loans, you may still qualify to receive scholarships. If the awards are marked for tuition only, funding may need to be adjusted because tuition-only assistance cannot exceed the cost of tuition.

Do you offer scholarships for summer sessions?

We highly recommend that you apply as early as possible, regardless of the terms you wish to attend. Many scholarships are awarded for the academic year (fall and spring). Summer scholarships are awarded if funding is available. Summer awarding begins after summer registration opens.

How long will I have to wait for my scholarship to post on my bursar account?

After you receive notification that you received a scholarship and have sent in your thank you letter, funds are applied to tuition charges based on a schedule. Please visit Important Financial Aid Dates for further assistance: tri-c.edu/financialdates

Find more answers regarding your refund at tri-c.edu/refundfaq

Do I have to write a thank you letter?

Without the generous contributions from donors who believe in our students, the community and education, Tri-C could not assist many of them. These contributions reduce the financial burden many students experience while attempting to start or finish secondary education. By writing a thank you letter, you are communicating to the donor that these dollars make a difference.

Suggestions for writing a thank you letter:

- Make sure the letter is typed and free from grammatical and spelling errors.
- Share with the donor your major and how this award has helped you.
- Format it as a business-type letter and include your Tri-C S-Number.

Where can I find tips for applying for additional scholarships?

Visit findaid.org and search for “scholarships.” Here, you can connect with scholarship databases and learn how to protect yourself from scams and report possible scams.

Who should not apply for scholarships?

Students who fall into any of the following categories are generally *not eligible* for financial assistance that is administered by Tri-C’s Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office:

- Visiting students
- Transient students
- College Credit Plus (CCP) students
- Employees

This ineligibility may include:

- Federal or institutional financial aid
- Alternative or private loans
- Emergency funding
- Scholarships

Important Note:

Visiting or transient students should check with their home institution (the college where they are primarily enrolled) to see what financial aid options may still be available there. Learn more at tri-c.edu/visiting.