



# Scholarship Application

Educational Foundation of the Colorado Society of CPAs

## FAQs - - - Frequently Asked Questions

### **How much does an Educational Foundation Scholarship pay?**

Educational Foundation scholarships range from \$2,500 to \$3,000 and can be used for tuition and fees, textbooks, and dormitory room and board.

### **Who is eligible to receive Educational Foundation scholarships?**

Students attending four-year universities who are progressing toward a bachelor's degree in Accounting (see University Scholarships section below) and students attending community colleges who plan to transfer to four-year universities to pursue a bachelor's degree in Accounting (see Community College Transfer Scholarships section below).

## **University Scholarships**

### **When will I hear whether or not I've been awarded a scholarship?**

The Foundation meets in late July to select the scholarship winners. Every applicant will be contacted after the decision is made, typically by the end of July or early August.

### **When will I actually receive the scholarship money?**

The Foundation pays the funds directly to your school's financial aid office in August. The scholarship is meant to be used entirely for fall term expenses; however, if there are funds remaining after the fall term, you may apply them to expenses of the winter, spring, or summer terms. Any funds remaining one year after the date of the award will be returned to the Foundation by your school's financial aid office.

### **Are University scholarships also awarded in the spring?**

No, only in the fall.

### **How many scholarships are awarded each year?**

The number varies from year to year depending on the available funds. In past years, about 30-45 scholarships have been awarded each fall.

### **What are my chances of winning a scholarship?**

In recent years, 50% to 75% of eligible applicants have been awarded a scholarship.

### **When and where do I apply?**

The online scholarship application becomes available in March. The deadline for completed applications is June 30. To apply: [cocpa-education-scholarship.smapply.io/](https://cocpa-education-scholarship.smapply.io/)

### **How do I apply?**

Follow these four steps:

- Join the Colorado Society of CPAs. Student membership costs \$24 and you can join at [www.cocpa.org](http://www.cocpa.org)
- Complete an online application at [cocpa-education-scholarship.smapply.io/](http://cocpa-education-scholarship.smapply.io/) The application requests basic information about you and your coursework.
- Upload a two-page essay telling the reviewers about your accomplishments and aspirations.
- Order a transcript from each institution where you have taken college-level accounting courses, to be sent directly to the Educational Foundation. (you will need a copy of your most recent transcripts or access to your completed course and grade detail in order to complete the online application)

### What are some of the other requirements for a Scholarship?

- You are a **United States citizen** or permanent resident, living and **studying in Colorado**.
- You are a **junior, senior, or graduate student**.
- You are classified as a **full-time student** (as defined by your college or university based on financial aid guidelines), and you will be enrolled full-time in the fall term.
- You are a declared **accounting major** or are pursuing a degree with an accounting emphasis.
- You have completed **at least 9 semester/12 quarter hours of accounting courses above the introductory level**.
- Your college or university **GPA is 3.25** or higher on a 4.0 scale overall, based on grades from all schools where you have taken college-level accounting courses. And your **accounting GPA is 3.25** or higher, based on grades from all college-level accounting courses you have taken.
- You **intend to practice the profession of accounting in Colorado** after graduation.
- You attend an **eligible Colorado college or university**. Your school is eligible if it - 1) has a physical Colorado campus; 2) has an accredited accounting program; and 3) is either a state supported or not-for-profit school.

The following institutions meet the eligibility rules:

**Adams State University**

**Colorado Christian University**

**Colorado State University - Fort Collins**

**Colorado State University - Global Campus**

**Colorado State University - Pueblo**

**Colorado Mesa University**

**Colorado Mountain College**

**Columbia College - Colorado campuses**

**Fort Lewis College**

**Metropolitan State University of Denver**

**Regis University**

**University of Colorado - Boulder**

**University of Colorado - Colorado Springs**

**University of Colorado - Denver**

**University of Denver**

**University of Northern Colorado**

**Western Colorado University**

**Do four-year online degree programs qualify?**

Yes, if the program is offered through one of the eligible Colorado colleges or universities.

**Am I eligible for the Mark J. Smith Scholarship?**

Yes, if you meet the General Scholarship eligibility requirements **AND** display financial need. Special consideration will be given to applicants who either come from a single-parent background or are attending college as a single parent.

**Are government employees and their family members eligible for scholarships?** Yes, but only for General Scholarships, due to the restrictions of Colorado Constitutional Amendment 41.

**If I applied before, can I apply again?**

Yes, if you still meet the eligibility requirements. Applicants may apply each year. No preference is given to students who have already received a scholarship. Scholarship recipients must re-apply for each scholarship year. There is no restriction on the number of awards. Only one award may be granted per scholarship cycle.

## **Community College Transfer Scholarships**

**When will I hear whether or not I've been awarded a scholarship?**

The Foundation meets in early May to select the scholarship winners. Every applicant will be contacted after the decision is made, typically by mid-May.

**How many years is this scholarship for?**

Up to two years. If the scholarship recipient continues to meet requirements, they may qualify for a second year scholarship award.

**How many scholarships are awarded each year?**

A limited number of scholarships will be awarded each year. The Foundation annually reevaluates the number of scholarships with a goal to increase the number available.

### **When and where do I apply?**

The Community College Transfer Scholarship application becomes available in January. The deadline for completed applications is April 15.

To apply: [cocpa-education-scholarship.smapply.io/](https://cocpa-education-scholarship.smapply.io/)

### **How do I apply?**

Follow these three steps:

- Complete an online application at [cocpa-education-scholarship.smapply.io/](https://cocpa-education-scholarship.smapply.io/) The application requests basic information about you and your coursework.
- Upload a two-page essay telling the reviewers about your accomplishments and aspirations.
- Order a transcript from each institution where you have taken college-level accounting courses, to be sent directly to the Educational Foundation. (you will need a copy of your most recent transcripts or access to your completed course and grade detail in order to complete the online application)

## **Other General Questions Applicable To Both Scholarships**

### **What should I include in my essay?**

Reviewers will look for evidence of leadership, achievement, exposure to the profession, and community service. The essay will also be judged on content, grammar, punctuation, organization, style, and creativity.

You should respond to these specific questions:

- Why are you qualified to receive an Educational Foundation Scholarship?
- How do you plan to use your accounting education? Address how you envision your future role in the accounting profession.
- What contact, if any, have you had with a CPA?
- Include employment, community and school activities, awards, honors, and other scholarships received.
- If you do not think your GPA tells the whole story of your scholastic capability/achievement, please explain.
- What other information would be helpful to the Selection Committee in making its decision?

### **How should I submit my transcript(s)?**

Order an official transcript from each school where you have taken college-level accounting courses. The transcript must include your cumulative overall grade point average. Copies of official transcripts are not acceptable. If you are enrolled during the spring term, order your transcript after it reflects your grades for the spring term.

There are three ways that you may submit your transcript:

1. Request that your transcript be **mailed** directly from your school's registrar's office to:

Educational Foundation of the COCPA

7887 E Belleview Ave Ste 200

Englewood, CO 80111-6076

2. Request that your transcript be **emailed** directly from your school's registrar's office to:  
scholarships@cocpa.org

3. Obtain your transcript in a **sealed envelope** affixed with your school's registrar's seal and mail it to:

Educational Foundation of the COCPA

7887 E Belleview Ave Ste 200

Englewood, CO 80111-6076

Please Note: The reviewers will not consider transcripts that are emailed, copied, scanned, faxed, or uploaded by the applicant.

**Should I submit letters of reference?**

No, reviewers will not consider letters of reference when reviewing your application.

**Should I submit a resume?**

You are invited to upload a resume with your application, but it is optional. Submitting a resume is another way to demonstrate your motivation, qualifications, and professionalism.

**What if I leave out a part of the application?**

You will receive automatic reminders if you start the application but don't complete it.

**More questions?** Direct them to Lindsay Moore, lindsay@COCPA.org, (303) 741-8618.

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