



# 2026 Smart Start Scholarship Application

## Eligibility

Applicants for the Smart Start Scholarship must be:

- High school seniors or current college students in an undergraduate program,
- Have a 3.25 GPA or higher and
- Planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school for the upcoming academic year.

## Awards

If selected as a recipient, the student will receive a \$1,000 award paid directly to the college or university. To encourage continued higher education, Create Credit Union is awarding ten scholarships for 2026. Awards are for undergraduate study only. Checks will be made payable to the school for the student. There will be ten recipients selected.

## Application

Interested students must complete the application and email it along with your essay, and an electronic copy of your official or unofficial transcript of grades to Create Credit Union at [smartstart@createcu.com](mailto:smartstart@createcu.com).

**The deadline for submission is April 6, 2026, 11:59 pm (PST).**

## Selection of Recipients

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, demonstrated participation in school and community activities, statement of goals and aspirations, and personal statement. Financial need is not considered.

The selection of recipients is made by the Smart Start committee. All applicants agree to accept the decision as final. Applicants will be notified after April 16, 2026. Not all applicants will be recipients.

## Additional Information

For questions regarding the scholarship program please call 702-228-2228, visit [www.createcu.org](http://www.createcu.org) or e-mail to [smartstart@createcu.com](mailto:smartstart@createcu.com).



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## Personal Information

1. Full Name:  2. Date of Birth:
3. Address:
4. Email:  5. Phone:
6. High School/College currently attending:
7. Are you currently a Create CU member? Yes  No
8. Are your parent(s) or guardian(s) a member? Yes  No
9. Name of parent or guardian:
10. Account no. of sponsoring member (to verify membership only):

## College Plans

11. College or University you plan to attend or currently attend:
12. Your second choice (if applicable):
13. Have you applied: Yes  No  14. Have you been accepted: Yes  No
15. What major do you plan to study:
16. Have you any educational plans beyond four years of college? If so, please specify:
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## College Plans cont.

17. Career plans (use as much space as you wish by attaching a page):

## Extracurricular Activities

18. Activities/Awards (Academic, Civic, Volunteer, Athletic, etc.):

## Employment

19. Are you currently employed:    Yes     No

20. Current employer:

21. Position or duties:

22. Dates employed:

## Additional Information

23. Add additional information and comments that may be pertinent to this application (family, financial circumstance, etc.)

## Essay

**(500 words or less, send as SEPARATE attachment)**

Despite concerns about workforce readiness among youth, financial literacy remains one of the most sought-after skills by employers. Why is this skill so critical, and how are you developing your own financial knowledge and responsibility? In what ways can you use these skills to serve, educate, or uplift others in your community?

## Disclaimer and signature

I understand that this is only a scholarship application and Create Credit Union makes no representations or assurances regarding the award or availability of scholarships. All information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge. A false statement, alteration or omission of information from this application will be considered just cause for removal of application from scholarship consideration. Information contained in this application will be used for no other purpose and will be treated as private and proprietary to the applicant.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Parent (or legal guardian) signature  
(if under 18):

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: