



Undergraduate Scholarship Guidelines

Deadline: January 12, 2026

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) awards an undergraduate scholarship to an individual who has exhibited the potential to make contributions to the family and consumer sciences profession. The field of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) encompasses the study of relationships among people and their personal environments to strengthen communities and advance the well-being of individuals and families over their lifespan.

Scholarship Award	Award Amount	Reimbursement for Membership and Travel to Annual Conference
<i>Jewell L. Taylor Scholarship</i>	\$5000	\$1000

Applying for the Scholarship

Before completing a scholarship application, a potential applicant should consider the following eligibility requirements.

- The applicant must be a current AAFCS member, if eligible, at the time of application.
- To qualify for the national scholarship, an applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- The applicant is planning to pursue or is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Family and Consumer Sciences or a related specialized program.
- The applicant has applied for admission to begin undergraduate study, has been admitted to an undergraduate program, or will be enrolled for the upcoming academic year.
- Former recipients of AAFCS undergraduate scholarships may apply for another year of scholarship funding if they meet the criteria of the scholarship(s) for which they are applying, but former recipients are not guaranteed another scholarship.
- Application materials are prepared by the applicant.
- Applicants can submit to only one AAFCS award, grant, fellowship, or scholarship per annual review cycle.
- Members of the AAFCS Board of Directors and the Awards Committee are not eligible to apply during their terms of office. AAFCS staff are not eligible to apply during their periods of employment with the Association.
- All award materials must be submitted in English.
- All policies, procedures, and guidelines must be followed for the award application to be considered for juried review.

Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted as one PDF document. Please be aware of the page requirements for each section. Please include page numbers and headings/captions on any supporting materials used. The online application will require submission of a color headshot in PNG or JPEG format of the applicant that will be used in marketing and promotional materials, if selected as a recipient. Please keep a copy of all materials submitted to AAFCS. Questions should be forwarded to awards@aafcs.org.

Section 1: General Information (use the official application form)

Applicant Information

- ☐ First and Last Name (include AAFCS Credentials, if applicable)

- ☐ Phonetic Pronunciation of Name
- ☐ Current Classification
- ☐ Undergraduate Major of Study & University
- ☐ AAFCS Member Number
- ☐ Number of Years of AAFCS Membership
- ☐ Contact Information (Email, Phone Number, Mailing Address)
- ☐ 150 Word Biography in 3rd Person

Section 2: Professional Statement and Goals (Maximum of 2 pages with 12-point font in narrative format)

- ☐ Identify your short and long-term professional goals.
- ☐ Why did you choose an undergraduate major in FCS?
- ☐ How do you plan to impact the field of FCS through your work?

Section 3: Applicant's Current Résumé (Maximum of three pages)

Section 4: Reference Forms (Use the AAFCS Reference Form and include forms in the final completed PDF application packet, not as separate attachments)

- References should come from individuals who can speak to your academic ability, leadership, and professional potential. Appropriate references may include professors, academic advisors, employers, affiliate and community leaders.

Section 5: Undergraduate Transcripts (Official or Unofficial)

- ☐ Transcripts must be included in the completed PDF application packet, not as separate attachments.
- ☐ Please ensure the transcripts are not password-protected.

Evaluating the Undergraduate Scholarship Application

- Individuals who complete a Reference Form for a current applicant cannot serve as jurors for this award.
- Jurors cannot review applications from family members, their current students, students at their own institution, or nominees who share the same employer. Jurors are responsible for identifying any applicants who include a potential conflict of interest and recusing themselves from the review process.
- An individual who has applied for an award, grant, fellowship, or scholarship shall not serve as a juror for any award, grant, fellowship, or scholarship during the period in which his or her own application is being reviewed.
- Jurors selected by the AAFCS Awards Committee review the applications and assign points using the Evaluation Criteria.

Awarding the Undergraduate Scholarship

- The Awards Committee reserves the right not to award a grant, fellowship, or scholarship if jurors do not find a worthy applicant.
- No applicant will be awarded more than one Undergraduate Scholarship in a given year.
- Only qualified applicants who receive a score of 80% or more of the highest score are eligible to receive an AAFCS Undergraduate Scholarship.
- Recipient(s) will be notified in the spring and will be recognized during the AAFCS Annual Conference.

Accepting/Receiving the Scholarship

The AAFCS Undergraduate Scholarship is awarded for the *sole* purpose of providing financial support for academic study in the field of family and consumer sciences. The following will be the responsibilities of those who are *chosen to receive an AAFCS Undergraduate Scholarship*:

- Recipient will complete and submit the “Statement of Acceptance” by the given deadline.
- A college or university scholarship officer or academic advisor at the institution where the scholarship recipient is enrolled will verify enrollment and eligibility prior to disbursing the scholarship to the recipient in installments—the recipient must remain enrolled to receive scholarship funds.
- Scholarship funds will be sent to a university scholarship officer as designated in the “Statement of Acceptance.”
- At the end of the academic year, the recipient is required to submit a brief email report that indicates how the AAFCS Undergraduate Scholarship funds were used.

Recognizing the Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient

- The Undergraduate Scholarship recipient is expected to attend the AAFCS Annual Conference.
- The AAFCS Scholarship provides additional funding for reimbursement to support one year of AAFCS membership and defray some of the travel expenses for participation in the AAFCS Annual Conference.

Failure to follow the guidelines will result in ineligibility of the nominee for the award.

Evaluation Criteria

Nominations will be evaluated using the scoring outlined below. Guidelines for what jurors may consider for each criterion are listed for clarity and for consistency in judging nominations.

Evaluation Criteria	Points Possible
FCS major declared/admitted to undergraduate program	/ 5
Professional Statement: Relevance to program, influences, passions, etc.	/ 15
Professional goals clearly stated short and long term	/ 20
Resumé: • Educational background • Experience related to FCS • Internships, work study, work experience, membership, and responsibilities as they relate to FCS, FCCLA, 4-H, and/or related organizations	/ 15
Special recognitions/awards/scholarships	/ 5
Participation/volunteering in FCS and other community and service activities	/ 5
Reference Forms: Evidence of leadership, character, accepting responsibility, and relevant participation	/ 15
Transcript: coursework, academic ability, career-directed	/ 10
Application materials are clearly stated, complete, organized, and concise with correct spelling, grammar, etc.	/ 10
Total	/ 100



REFERENCE FORM

Applicant Name	
Reference Name	
Reference Title/Position	
How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?	
In your opinion, what do you feel are the applicant's strengths?	
How would you describe the applicant's professional commitment and leadership?	
Please write a short summary of your primary reasons for recommending this applicant.	

Please rate the candidate (as compared to his/her peers) on each of the following characteristics by marking the appropriate box with an 'X',

Characteristic	Superior	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unable to Rate
Leadership					
Organizational Skills					
Problem-Solving Ability					
Self-Motivation					
Teamwork					

Signature of Reference Provider

Date Completed