

2024 Post-Secondary Scholarship Guidelines

Who is eligible?

- Applicants must reside within DSACO's 23 counties and/or their loved one with Down syndrome must reside within DSACO's 23 counties.
 - DSACO's 23 County service area includes: *Athens, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Madison, Marion, Meigs, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, Union and Vinton.*
- Individuals with Down syndrome and siblings (brother or sister, including half-brother/sister and stepbrother/sister) of a person with Down syndrome (living or deceased) will be considered eligible with other relatives considered at the discretion of the DSACO Scholarship Committee.
- Applicants must be a high school graduate currently attending a post-secondary program, or a high school senior expected to attend a post-secondary program after their upcoming graduation. Applicants must be accepted or currently attending an accredited technical school, university or college in pursuit of an associate, bachelors, masters or doctorate degree.
- Eligible fields of study include, but are not limited to: *Nursing, Education, Social Work, Speech and Language Pathology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Medicine.*
 - Other areas of study will be considered at the discretion of the DSACO Post-Secondary Scholarship Committee.
- Applicants with Down syndrome who have graduated from high school and are participating in post-secondary programs at their own expense will be considered. This scholarship is not specific to a particular year in school, though an individual is only eligible to receive the scholarship twice.

When are applications due?

Applications must be received no later than Wednesday, January 31st at 5 PM. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

What will the scholarship application package contain?

- Completed application form.
- Two page maximum, typed essay, that addresses one of the specific topics stated on the application.
- Two letters of reference, intended to inform the committee of the applicant's relationship to the person with Down syndrome and the impact that relationship has had on the applicant.
 - If the applicant is an individual with Down syndrome, these letters will serve as a character reference.
- Official high school or university transcripts.
 - It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that transcripts are requested from school personnel and sent to DSACO Scholarship Committee by the deadline. They can be mailed to the DSACO Office or electronically sent to ecallahan@dsaco.net . Those applications sent via mail must be post-marked by January 31st, 2024.

Please note that an application will not be considered if any part of the application is missing.

How can funds be used?

Scholarship funds are to be used to pay for incurred educational expenses such as coursework, tuition, or materials/equipment purchased for academic needs (PC, books, etc.). The award can be used for any expense approved by the institution.

How will applicants be evaluated?

Once applications have been received by DSACO, they are made anonymous and sent to the Post-Secondary Scholarship committee for scoring. Applications are made anonymous so that any room for bias is eliminated.

Post-Secondary Scholarship Committee members are comprised of college professors, leaders in the disability community and supporters from the GLOW Foundation.

A rating will be given by each committee member, and awards will be based upon the highest cumulative ratings. A rating standard has been developed by the scholarship committee prior to the screening of all applications.

When will the scholarship be awarded?

- A letter from the DSACO scholarship committee will be sent to all scholarship applicants notifying them of the outcome of their application in February of 2024.
- DSACO will submit the awarded funds to the appropriate institution to be applied to the account identified by the student. Scholarship recipients will be notified of the transaction.
- Scholarship recipients will be highlighted by DSACO.

A maximum of five (5) scholarships will be awarded in 2024.

Each Scholarship will be a minimum of \$2,500 and maximum of \$5,000.