



Scholarship Requirements

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Recipients must meet all eligibility requirements contained herein and be a current student or entering student at an accredited college or university (documentation of status will be required). Age, gender, race, religion, or national origin are not conditions of eligibility for any SMA Foundation scholarship award.

Specific eligibility requirements:

1. Only students pursuing a degree in an approved program in Animal/Meat/Food Science, Ag Communications, Agricultural Engineering, or any related agricultural department in an accredited educational institution are eligible. The SMA Foundation's Board of Trustees reviews and updates this list as conditions dictate and reserves the right to consider special circumstances as warranted.
2. All recipients must be enrolled in an approved program at the time the scholarship becomes effective (Fall Semester 2026).
3. In the event an awardee withdraws from school or transfers to another major (other than those listed in 1 above) during the tenure of their scholarship, the unused balance of the award must be returned to the SMA Foundation.
4. A **2.5 GPA** on a 4-point scale must be maintained for the first term of study after receipt of the scholarship.
5. All students must remain enrolled full-time for two consecutive semesters (or equivalent) following the effective date of the scholarship (exceptions may be considered under special circumstances upon written request by the recipient).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the online application form and upload all required documents. Documents are preferred in PDF format. Applications will be evaluated based upon the criteria listed below. The Trustees of the SMA Foundation reserve the right to, in special situations, consider other criteria on a case-by-case basis if the situation warrants such action.

1. Prepare a typed 200 to 250-word essay outlining your career goals and the purpose for applying for the scholarship. Age, gender, race, religion, or national origin are not conditions of eligibility for the award.
2. Provide a summary of your work experience, especially as related to the commercial meat industry, university meat lab employment, and(or) other food processing related work experiences, and research projects (*a resume will suffice and can include all the details for items 2, 3, and 4 here*).
3. Provide a list of awards and honors received. Emphasis will be placed upon those received at the university level.



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4. Provide a list of extracurricular activities that demonstrate intellectual growth, interests, talents, and leadership qualities. **Also, provide a list of other scholarships the applicant has received or been selected to receive.**
5. Include a letter of recommendation signed by a faculty member or employer.
6. Enclose official or unofficial transcript copies of all university work, or, in the case of entering freshmen, a high school transcript. Highlight your cumulative GPA. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4-point scale. If cumulative GPA is not automatically printed on transcript, please self-calculate, and have a faculty member initial.
7. Lastly, include a headshot. All scholarship winners will be highlighted during SMA's Annual Convention in July.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

All applicants will need to complete the application on the SMA website and upload each of the required documents- essay, resume, letter of recommendation, headshot, and transcript. Transcripts can be sent separately depending on the university's policies. Unofficial transcripts will be accepted.

Scholarship recipients will be notified by email no later than June 15. Written acceptance from each successful applicant must be received at the SMA Foundation office by July 1.

Deadline for submission is May 1st at 11:59pm CST.

Incomplete applications and late submittals will not be accepted.