

American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch, Inc. Catalyst for Change Scholarship



Guidelines:

- **Materials (recommendations, transcripts and applications) must be postmarked or received electronically by February 13, 2026. Applications submitted online must have an e-signature.**
- Up to four merit-based scholarship awards: each in the amount of \$5,000.
- Applicant must be attending an accredited college or university as an undergraduate or graduate student in the fall following the application; proof of enrollment required to receive award.
- Applicant must be a Western New York resident. Applicant does not need to currently study at a WNY institution. However, the applicant must have lived in Western New York prior to attending college or is now (and has been for at least a year) a resident of Western New York. The counties of Western New York are Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genessee, Wyoming, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany.
- Applicant must submit two academic letters of recommendation. The letters must include the name and school of the applicant plus the name, phone number and position of the recommender.
 - 1) One must provide an evaluation from an advisor, professor or mentor who can testify to your success in a program or project.
 - 2) One must provide an endorsement from an advisor, professor or mentor who can evaluate your potential for success in your chosen field.
- Applicant must obtain official transcripts of **all** colleges attended since high school graduation.
- **Letters of recommendation and transcripts may be sent in one of two ways:**
 - 1) Recommenders and colleges may send the documents directly to our address or email address.
 - 2) You may obtain SEALED original letters of recommendation and transcripts and you may send those sealed along with your application (in a single envelope). This gives you the greatest control over the receipt of your application and supporting materials.
In either case, the applicant is responsible for ensuring that the documents are received by the deadline. Late or missing materials will disqualify the application.
- Applicant must write a 1-page essay explaining how they have demonstrated the philosophy of the AAUW movement in their own experience and achievement and relate this to their future educational and professional ambitions. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day - educational, social, economic, and political. Our Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
- Applicant must list student activities and a brief description of the leadership role played in them. Include what you find most rewarding or valuable about your participation in these activities.
- Applicant must list community involvement and a brief description of the benefits received from it and must list awards and honors received.
- Applicant must attend a personal interview if requested to do so.
- Applications and supporting documents must be received by the deadline. It is applicant's responsibility to send or mail in time and to ensure that all transcripts, references, etc. are sent in time to meet the deadline. Applications postmarked after the deadline will not be accepted. It is highly suggested that applicants send or mail materials *at least two days prior to the deadline*.
- Awards will be announced by mid-April and presented after receiving confirmation / proof of enrollment.
- All applications must be computer printed using at least a 12-point font. Handwritten applications will not be considered.
- Previous recipients of the Catalyst for Change scholarship are ineligible.

Send completed applications and all printed materials to:

Catalyst for Change Scholarship Committee, 5500 N Bailey Ave, PO Box 844, Amherst, NY 14226

OR Email: catalyst@aauwbuffalo.org to ask questions or submit an online application.

*AAUW is a non-profit organization which advances equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
Many of our scholarships are funded through the AAUW-Buffalo annual Used Book Sale - volunteers are welcome!*

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PLEASE FILL IN ONLINE OR TYPE. You may attach information to the application.
HAND-WRITTEN APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING: (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

A COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
ENROLLED IN A POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM

A GRADUATE STUDENT ADMITTED
OR ENROLLED IN A GRADUATE PROGRAM

Name _____ Contact Phone No. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Date of graduation _____

School Address _____ City _____ County _____

Course of Study _____ Email Address: _____

Please list ALL colleges attended since high school; current first. Please ensure that *official* transcripts from each of these schools have been sent to AAUW. Attach additional pages if necessary.

| <u>Name of College/University</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Major</u> | <u>GPA</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

School you will attend in September: _____

Letters of Recommendation (list name of reference)

1st Reference _____

2nd Reference _____

Applicant's Declaration

I certify that all of the information contained in my application form is accurate and that I did not receive any assistance (including AI) in completing the essay portion of this application. I understand that, at the option of American Association of University Women Buffalo Branch, Inc., I may be interviewed as a candidate for the Catalyst for Change Scholarship Award. I consent to the review and release of this application to the appropriate persons of AAUW, Buffalo Branch. I also consent to the release of my name and information for publicity purposes if I am an award recipient.

Signature/e-Signature _____ Date _____

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Please type in the space provided or use a separate sheet of paper to answer these questions.

Introduce Yourself- In three to five sentences, tell us about yourself including your educational background, future course of studies, and professional ambitions.

*For example: "I am a ____ year student at the University of _____
I will graduate with a _____ degree in _____
I hope to _____."*

Student Activities - Describe your past and present student activities and the leadership role you played in them. Please include what you find most rewarding or valuable about your participation in these activities and what you have learned about yourself and others.

Community Involvement - Describe the past and present activities in which you participated that benefit your community. Why did you select these activities and how have they affected your personal growth?

Work Experience - List any work or volunteer experience and what you gained from that experience.

Awards/Recognition/Honors - List any awards/recognition/honors which you have received.

Where/how did you learn about this scholarship program?

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ESSAY IS TO BE APPROXIMATELY 1 PAGE, single-sided, double-spaced, minimum 12-point font. (no more than two pages)

USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME, EMAIL AND CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER ON YOUR ESSAY SHEET.

Explain how you have demonstrated the philosophy of the AAUW movement in your own experience and achievement, and relate this to your future educational and professional ambitions. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day - educational, social, economic, and political. Our Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANT:

- Complete application, including essay, sent to: Catalyst for Change Scholarship Committee, 5500 N Bailey Ave, PO Box 844, Amherst, NY 14226 or catalyst@aauwbuffalo.org
- Transcript(s) requested
- Two letters of recommendation, each including recommendee and recommender information.

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Addendum #1

EVALUATION OF PROGRAM OR PROJECT

Applicant's Name: _____

The above named student has applied for an American Association of University Women (AAUW) Buffalo Branch *Catalyst for Change* Scholarship that will be awarded to students who have demonstrated success in a grassroots effort that has effected positive change for women or girls.

We ask for your candid evaluation of the applicant's role in a program or project designed to effect positive change for women or girls. Your response will be kept confidential. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

(Should you choose, you are welcome to attach your evaluation on your professional letterhead.)

Direct any questions to catalyst@aauwbuffalo.org.

Name _____ Title or Position _____

Signature _____ School _____

Date _____ Phone _____

Recommendations must be postmarked or received electronically by February 13, 2026. **Please send to:**
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Addendum #2

ADVISOR / PROFESSOR / MENTOR ENDORSEMENT

Applicant's Name: _____

The above named student has applied for an American Association of University Women (AAUW) Buffalo Branch *Catalyst for Change* Scholarship that will be awarded to students who have demonstrated success in a grassroots effort that has effected positive change for women or girls.

We ask for your candid evaluation of the applicant's potential to be successful in his or her chosen field. Your response will be kept confidential. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

(Should you choose, you are welcome to attach your evaluation on your professional letterhead.)

Direct any questions to catalyst@aauwbuffalo.org.

Name _____ Title or Position _____

Signature _____ School _____

Date _____ Phone _____

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