

AAUW BUFFALO SCHOLARSHIP FAQs

What kinds of scholarship programs are currently available?

There are a number of academic/merit-based scholarships available with different criteria, also needs-based grants and interest-free loans. Strong academic achievement, community service, and demonstrated commitment to AAUW goals and values are recurring themes.

Where do the funds come from to support the scholarship programs?

The main source of funding is the annual Scholarship Book Sale, as well as donations and bequests. We are a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization and welcome donations, volunteers, and members.

Are there any scholarships for graduate study?

Yes, the Olga Lindberg scholarship is designated for graduate studies, and graduate students may apply for a Catalyst for Change and/or Jacquie Walker scholarship.

Are there any scholarships for part-time study, non-traditional occupations, two-year degrees, or workforce training?

Yes, we offer ALT (Adult Learners in Transition) scholarships for those on a non-traditional path who are enrolled or accepted at an accredited institution for a course of study of at least two years, whether full-time or part-time.

Can students who are home-schooled apply for the Women Entering College Scholarship?

Yes, students who were home-schooled for part or all of their high school education may submit a Letter of Substantial Equivalency - issued by local school districts to affirm that the student has been homeschooled in compliance with state law. Additionally, the applicant will submit a transcript generated by the homeschool indicating where courses were taken, grade scale used, overall GPA, credits per course, etc.

Are there any scholarship opportunities for men?

Yes, Catalyst for Change and Jacquie Walker Scholarships may be awarded to men as well as Funds for Education loans and grants and Clarine Radt mini-grants.

May I apply for more than one scholarship?

Yes, you may apply for all scholarships for which you qualify. However, you may only receive one each year.

May I receive a scholarship even though I have received one in the past?

Yes, it is possible to receive different scholarships at different times.

Can I get a scholarship for any school, and any course of study?

Yes, you may receive a scholarship for any accredited institution and any course of study.

Must studies be undertaken only in person?

No, students may be attending in-person and/or online.

What is an “accredited institution”?

A Title IV accredited institution is an educational institution that has been approved to participate in federal student aid financial programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Title IV schools include public and private universities, community colleges, and some vocational and trade schools.

Do I have to provide any financial information or the FAFSA?

Most of our scholarships are merit-based grants for which we do not ask for any financial information.

Chamberlin and Funds for Education loans and grants are administered according to a bequest and we require financial information for these.

Who makes the decisions on which applicants are selected for scholarships?

There is no one person making any scholarship decisions. Each scholarship has a committee of volunteers who meet as a group and thoroughly discuss and make note of various factors contained in the application, the transcript, the letters of recommendation and the all-important essay. The committee chairs summarize their recommendations and submit to the Scholarship Director. The Scholarship Director then presents the final recommendations for approval by the Board of Directors.

There is a similar process for Funds for Education and Chamberlin Loans and Grants.

When and how will I be notified whether I receive an academic scholarship?

Applicants will receive a letter via email approximately 60 days following the application deadline; award winners are also contacted by telephone.

Scholarship award winners and guests are invited to attend our annual Scholarship Celebration to meet other award winners and AAUW members, and may be asked to make a short presentation.

Recipients of Funds for Education and Chamberlin loans and grants will also be contacted according to the procedures for those programs.

If I win an academic scholarship, when can I expect to receive the funds?

Funds are disbursed directly to students by check upon receipt of proof of enrollment, generally late August.

Are there restrictions on how the funds may be used?

No, scholarship award winners may use the funds for any reasonable purpose – tuition, books and supplies, course materials, fees, transportation, housing, food, healthcare, dependent care (e.g. childcare), etc.

What is the application deadline?

The application deadline for all academic, merit-based scholarships is subject to change each year, but is generally in the second half of February.

The application deadlines for Funds for Education and Chamberlin loans and grants are May 1 and December 1.

We highly recommend that materials submitted via postal mail be sent at least 5 days prior to the deadline.

What happens if I can't get all my materials in to you by the deadline?

Applicants whose application packages are incomplete and/or who fail to follow directions are immediately disqualified. Please note, we are not responsible for lost or delayed US mail or electronic submissions.

Will I be notified if any of my submitted documents are incomplete or incorrect?

No. We do not normally provide individual feedback or notifications regarding incomplete or incorrect submissions. It is the applicant's responsibility to carefully review and follow all application instructions to ensure materials are complete and accurate.

What is an official transcript?

An official transcript is a certified academic record issued directly by the institution a student attended or is currently attending. It includes a complete enrollment history, listing all courses or subjects attempted, grades earned, and any degrees or awards conferred. To be considered official, the transcript must be properly authenticated - such as through a certified electronic copy - and bear the institution's authorized signature or seal. Transcripts marked 'unofficial' will not be accepted.

What is your policy on AI?

You must provide original, personally written essays and responses without the use of any AI or artificial technology.

Will I be required to appear for an interview?

In most cases, the written application materials will form the basis of our decisions.

For Funds for Education and Chamberlin loans and grants, candidates under consideration will be contacted to schedule an interview.

In all cases, we reserve the right to verify information, contact references, and/or request an in-person or telephone interview.

What if I don't want my name and/or photo used for publicity purposes?

Award winners may opt out of publicity; just let us know at the time of notification.

ADVICE FOR SUCCESS

- Follow directions carefully. For instance, all application materials must be typed or computer-generated and in 12-point font. Each scholarship has specific guidelines.
- Think carefully about who to ask for letters of recommendation.
- Get all materials in on time.
- Submit an original, thoughtful, personalized essay, keeping in mind AAUW's purpose and values.
- Tell your story. Explain your personal and academic journey, including any hiccups. Explain what made you choose the path you are on.
- Apply for everything for which you are eligible.