

East Texas Communities Foundation Scholarship Eligibility and Selection Criteria

A Guideline for Donors Considering the Establishment of a Scholarship Fund

The purpose of each scholarship fund at the Communities Foundation is usually determined when it is created. There are two types of criteria to define when establishing a scholarship fund, **eligibility criteria** and **selection criteria**. The first defines who may apply for the scholarship, while the second helps the scholarship committee to determine who among the applicants actually receives the scholarship.

While it is not beneficial to define eligibility in too restrictive a fashion (the pool of applicants may be too small), it is helpful to clarify eligibility enough to fulfill the donor's intent and to avoid inappropriate applications being submitted.

Establishing selection criteria is extremely important. When creating a scholarship fund, the donor must make a number of decisions in regard to the qualifications for recipients of their awards. Some of the possible considerations are listed below. Some options are listed in *italics* below. **There are many other options from which to choose.**

A. NECESSARY CRITERIA

1. FINANCIAL NEED

Recipient would be

- *able*
 - *unable*
- to attend college without financial assistance

2. RESIDENCY

Recipient must be a

- *citizen of the United States*
- *resident of the State of Texas*
- *resident of East Texas (defined by the Foundation as a 16 county area)*
- *resident of Smith County, Texas (or other specific county)*
- *resident of Tyler (or other specific community); etc.*

3. HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

Recipient must be a graduate of

- *any high school located in Smith County (or other counties)*
- *any high school in the (Tyler, Longview, etc.) Independent School District*
- *Robert E. Lee, All Saints (or other specific high school)*
- *any public high school in Tyler (or other community)*
- *any private high school in Tyler (or other community)*
- *any high school in East Texas*
- *home school graduate*

4. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY TO BE ATTENDED

Recipient will attend

- any college or university in the United States
- any college or university in the State of Texas
- any college or university in East Texas
- The University of Texas at Tyler, &/or Tyler Junior College, or any other specific institution

5. LENGTH OF SUPPORT

The scholarship

- shall be awarded for one year only
- may be renewed
 - for up to three (or other specific amount) additional years
 - through receipt of a Bachelor's degree; etc.

provided the recipient

- achieves a GPA of _____
- maintains a satisfactory GPA for continued enrollment
- takes a minimum number of hours to be fully enrolled; etc.

B. OPTIONAL CRITERIA

1. HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC RECORD

Recipient must have

- achieved a Grade Point Average of _____
- been in the upper _____% of graduating class
- demonstrated diligence in studies

2. HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Recipient must have participated in

- athletics (drama, newspaper, etc)

Recipient must have been a member of the

- drill team (R.O.T.C., FFA, etc.)

Recipient must have studied

- journalism, foreign languages, science, etc.

Recipient must have

- demonstrated outstanding citizenship, leadership ability, etc.
- done community service work, etc.

3. AGE/MARITAL STATUS

Recipient must be

- between the ages of ___ and ___
- under the age of _____

Recipient must be

- single
- a single parent, etc.

4. COURSE OF STUDY

Recipient will be enrolled in the

- *College of Engineering, School of Pharmacy, etc.*

Recipient will major in

- *chemistry, music, theology, etc.*

Recipient will study for a career in

- *nursing*

- *education, etc.*

5. OTHER

Recipient must have expressed a desire to reside in

- *Tyler, East Texas, etc*

Recipient must

- *have demonstrated the potential to make a worthy contribution to the community*

- *be without one or both parents*

- *have been employed while in high school*

- *the first generation in their family to attend college*

Recipient must have demonstrated

- *Christian devotion*

- *excellent moral character; etc.*

Recipient must be the

- *dependent*

- *child or grandchild*

of

- *an employee of _____ Company*

The Foundation's staff is available to meet with interested donors to help them think through the criteria for their scholarship and to help draft criteria.

Before any scholarship fund can be established at the Foundation, the Foundation's Board of Directors must review and approve the scholarship criteria, to ensure that they comply with both the Foundation's policies and the I.R.S. rules on scholarship grantmaking.