

**East Texas Communities Foundation
Scholarship Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

A Guideline for Donors Considering the Establishment of a Scholarship Fund

Donors who establish scholarship funds give students an opportunity to pursue their dreams. It also enables you as a donor to reward outstanding scholars, establish a legacy at your alma mater, honor a deceased loved one, encourage students studying a specific major, or support students with limited financial means.

East Texas Communities Foundation staff will work with you to establish the eligibility and selection criteria for the scholarship to achieve your goals and objectives. We strive to set criteria that are neither too restrictive nor too broad in order to attract the best pool of applicants. For example, we may suggest some criteria be required and some preferred.

Common eligibility criteria are listed below. Many other options are possible. Check all you consider important and then we will discuss options with you.

REQUIRED CRITERIA

1. RESIDENCY - Recipient must be a resident of:

- the city of _____ (or other specific community)
- _____ County, Texas (or specific counties)
- East Texas (defined by ETCF as its 32-county service area)
- the State of Texas

2. EDUCATION LEVEL – Recipient must be this type of student: (check all that apply)

Universal Application:

- High school graduating senior
- College undergraduate
- Non-traditional student returning to college

Stand Alone Application:

- College undergraduate at _____ level or above
- Graduate student
- Non-traditional student returning to college

3. HIGH SCHOOL - Recipient must attend the following high school, (check all that apply):

- _____ High School (a specific high school)
- Any high school in the _____ Independent School District
- Any public high school, as defined by residency above
- Any private high school, as defined by residency above
- Any public, private, or homeschool as defined by residency above

4. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Recipient will receive:

- A bachelor's degree (4 year degree)
- An associate's degree (2 year degree)
- Certification

Recipient may attend:

- Any accredited college/ university in _____ (US, Texas, East TX)
- Any nonprofit technical school in _____ (US, Texas, East TX)
- Specific college or university _____

5. LENGTH OF SUPPORT *

- Scholarship shall be awarded for one year only.
- Recipient may reapply and compete with new applicants next year.
- Scholarship shall / may be renewable:
 - for up to _____ additional years
 - through end of current degree program
 - provided the recipient
 - achieves a GPA of _____ (on a 4.0 scale)
 - maintains a satisfactory GPA for continued enrollment
 - is enrolled full-time
 - remains at a specific school (scholarship specific)
 - remains in a specific course of study (scholarship specific)

*This could change, as some donors may choose to add to a fund over time, allowing the Foundation to increase the number of recipients or expand the length of time students are supported. Distribution is always based on the availability of funds per ETCF spending policy. Staff will discuss with donors all award options: one time only, renewable, number of awards, and amount of each scholarship.

6. FINANCIAL NEED – A student's financial situation will be:

- Primary
- Secondary (considered, but not above other criteria)
- Optional
- Not a consideration

Note: ETCF uses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine financial need and requires all applicants to upload this information into their application.

7. ACADEMIC RECORD – Recipient must show academic achievement by:

- Minimum GPA of _____ (on a 4.0 scale)
- Meet requirements to stay in program of study
- Not a consideration

OPTIONAL CRITERIA

8. MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY

- Any – will default to any if nothing is specified
- Specific Major(s) _____

- Future Career focus _____

9. ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR RELATIONSHIPS– check all the extracurricular activities you would like the recipient to actively be participating in either through the high school or in their free time:

Extracurricular Activities and/or accomplishments:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ____ Agriculture Education Classes | ____ Athletics |
| ____ Band | ____ Boy Scouts – Eagle Scout earned |
| ____ Cheerleading | ____ Choir |
| ____ Civil Air Patrol | ____ Dance |
| ____ Debate or Mock Trials | ____ Fishing Team |
| ____ Future Farmers of America | ____ Girl Scouts |
| ____ Horse Shows | ____ Music |
| ____ Musical Theater | ____ Orchestra |
| ____ Student Government | ____ Theatre Arts |
| ____ Visual Arts | ____ Other _____ |

Relationships: recipient must be (check all that apply; the recipient will need to provide proof of the relationship)

- The dependent child/grandchild of a _____
- The dependent child of an employee of _____

Note: Employee-related scholarships must meet additional requirements to ensure charitable status for the donor and recipient. Foundation staff can explain further.

10. DEMOGRAPHICS – Donors may specify a class of applicants by demographic criteria, but once specified, the pool of applicants meeting that criteria will be considered on an objective and non-discriminatory basis with regard to other selection criteria.

- Gender _____
- Age _____
- Ethnicity _____
- First Generation College Student
- Citizen of the United States

11. SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION OPTIONS - Recipient must demonstrate these character traits by answering an additional question or answering an essay. These will be used when there is a preference for a certain type of applicant but it is not a requirement.

Supplemental Questions (yes/no):

- Raised by a single parent
- Desire to live and work in East Texas
- Employment while in school
- Other _____

Supplemental Questions through essay:

- Demonstrate your potential to make a worthy contribution to the community
- Excellent moral character

- Devotion to their _____ faith
- Leadership
- Other _____

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.