# A logo with white text Description automatically generated Adult Learner Long-Term Scholarship Application

## Guidelines

### What is the Adult Learner Scholarship?

### This scholarship is for non-traditional students who want to change their life for the better through education and training. The scholarship supports a range of training, including earning a degree at two- and four-year colleges and universities, completing a certificate and other non-degree programs, or attempting a self-directed learning experience with a clear goal.

### Who should apply for a short-term award?

You should complete this application if your program meets the following criteria:

1. Your program will last more than one semester.
2. At the end of your program, you will have a one- or two-year certificate or a degree.
3. You may need to renew your award to finish your program. Renewals require a 2.0 GPA or higher.

Deadlines are June 15 and November 15. Late applications are not accepted. Decisions will be made within six weeks. Please allow ample time before your program begins when applying.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

To be defined as a “non-traditional student,” you must meet ONLY ONE of the following criteria:

* be over the age of 25 or
* work full-time (35 hours/week or more) while being enrolled or
* have dependents other than a spouse or
* be financially independent from parents and/or considered independent for FAFSA purposes or
* did not receive a standard high school diploma (completed with a GED, HiSET, or certificate of completion) or
* have delayed enrollment in college after high school for a reason other than a gap year activity.

You may apply for this scholarship if you are enrolled full-time or part-time. Applicants must have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if they are eligible to do so. **Important: Unless you are asking for support for a self-directed learning experience, your program must be accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation agency.**

**How much are scholarships and who receives awards?**

The scholarships are between $1,000 and $2,500, depending on individual need. Awards may be limited by DOE/DOL regulations and will not be refundable to the student.

**What does the committee consider in making awards?**

When they make decisions, the scholarship committee looks for financial need, preparation to enter the training program, a solid goal and a plan to succeed. For incarcerated applicants, the committee also considers whether the educational request is in support of recovery and reentry success. Overall, about a third of applicants receive awards.

**What preparation is required?**

The committee knows that people who seek out help before entering college are more likely to succeed and supports applicants who have thoughtfully prepared for their program. Therefore, we require that applicants work within a structured advisory program if it is offered, or seek help from a teacher, advisor, or mentor if not.

If you have any questions about the Adult Learner Long-Term Scholarship program, student eligibility or the application, please contact **Jackie Shannon** at jshannon@mainecf.org.

# Adult Learner Long-Term Scholarship Application

### Recommendation Form

We prefer a reference from someone advising you on your educational journey, such as a teacher, MEOC advisor, FAME counselor, or education director.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of person being recommended:** |  |
| **Name of program they plan to attend:** |  |

The above candidate is applying for an Adult Learner Scholarship at the Maine Community Foundation. This scholarship is for non-traditional students who want to change their life for the better through education and training. It supports a range of training, including two- and four-year colleges and universities, completing a certificate and other non-degree programs, or attempting a self-directed learning experience with a clear goal. When they make decisions, the scholarship committee will be looking for financial need, a solid goal and plan, and a commitment to stay in Maine. Please submit completed form via email to: [jshannon@mainecf.org](mailto:jshannon@mainecf.org).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of person completing form:** |  |
| **What is your relationship to applicant?** |  |
| **What are the first words that come to mind when describing this student?** |  |
| **What are the applicant’s strengths?** |  |
| **Please rate the student in the following areas using the scale provided. A score of 1 indicates weakness in an area; a score of 3 indicates average in an area; and a score of 5 indicates strength in an area.** | |
| *Ability to make an execute a plan:* | ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 |
| *Resilience in overcoming obstacles:* | ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 |
| *Seriousness of purpose:* | ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 |
| *Potential for succeeding in their program:* | ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 |
| **Please share any comments or concerns about this applicant that you think may be of help. You may attach a letter if you prefer.** |  |

**Signature of Person Completing Form: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Thank you for your support of the applicant.*