

**How to Start an Online Scholarship Application – FIRST TIME USERS**

Follow these step by step instructions to start your online scholarship application.

**Current College Students: If you are renewing a Maine Community Foundation scholarship, go to the**[**Scholarship Renewal Information**](https://www.mainecf.org/find-a-scholarship/scholarship-renewals/)**page.  You will find a list of renewable funds, required uploads and links to the application or contact information if another organization administers the application. Do not start a first-time application if you are renewing a scholarship from MaineCF.**  If you are renewing, but are not sure which scholarship you received, contact the MaineCF Scholarships Team at scholarships@mainecf.org.

### Getting Started – gather your required uploads: you do not have to have all these documents to begin the application process or set up an account, but you will need them before you can submit your application.

All first-time applications require:

* Your most recent transcript or grade report (which must include your name, grades for all semesters of study to December 2024, and GPA). **If you have transcripts from multiple places, please scan them into one document to upload.**
* Two letters of recommendation. You can upload these, or you may provide an email address to invite someone to upload a letter to your account. If you choose to have someone else upload your letter(s), note that your application cannot be submitted until both of your letters have been uploaded. We recommend that you start here, **plan ahead and allow plenty of time to complete this step. Both of these letters must be provided by the deadline – otherwise you will not be eligible for consideration for the scholarship. You will need the email addresses of your recommenders if you would like to send them an upload invitation!**
* Your college’s financial aid offer. If you are a returning college student/applicant and have not received the information for next year, you may upload the current year’s letter. If you will be attending college for the first time next year, and have not received your award letter yet, upload a *placeholder* document stating that you have not yet received your financial aid award information. When you receive your letter, send a copy to Maine Community Foundation, 245 Main St., Ellsworth, ME 04605.
* Your Student Aid Report (SAR) from the 2025-2026 FAFSA. This is a seven-page (or so) document and will include your EFC as well as your family’s Adjusted Gross Income. Do not send us the FAFSA application. You can download your SAR from the FAFSA website to your desktop, and then upload it to your application. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. **If you are not eligible to file the FAFSA, upload a blank piece of paper, or an explanation of why you are not uploading the Student Aid report to your application.**

Some applications require other supporting documents, which are specified on the application itself.

**Step 1**

Go to Maine Community Foundation website (<http://mainecf.org>) and click the orange **Apply** button at the top right of the screen. You can also follow online application links from our scholarship pages.



**Step 2**

On the left side you will see **Online Scholarship Applications.** Click the **Apply Here** button to access our online scholarship application system.



**Step 3**

In the top right corner you will see the options to Log In or Register 

**• Log In**- If you’ve previously used our online scholarship application system, type in your login information. If you forgot your password, click on the link that says “Forgot your password?” to reset it.

**• Register**- If this is your first time submitting an online scholarship application, you will need to create an account, using your name and email address. We recommend you **do not use your high school email address**  because it doesn’t follow you after graduation. If you’ve used our online application before, then **use the same sign in credentials as you’ve used before.**  If you’re unsure of your user name/email, contact scholarships@mainecf.org. Do not create a new account.

New users will receive a confirmation email; open it and click the green **Confirm email address** button in that email to be brought back to the application site. Click the green **Continue** button



Step 4

You will be brought to your Program Page – there are no applications or programs currently on your page, so click the green **View Programs** button.



**Step 5**

To find the scholarships for which you’re eligible, you’ll need to fill out the **Eligibility Profile.** Click the green button, read the instructions, and fill out your profile. If you are renewing a scholarship, answer yes to the renewal question and pick your scholarship from the drop-down list. This process will help to narrow down the scholarships in our database to those that you qualify for, so answer the questions as correctly and completely as possible!



When you’re finished, click **Save My Profile** to be brought your list of eligible applications.

**Step 6**

You’ll be brought to your home page, listing all the scholarships for which you’re eligible to apply. Click the green **More** button to read about the scholarship and access the application.



**Step 7**

Read the scholarship description to find out what kind of candidate the committee is looking for, and then click the green **Apply** button.



**Step 8**

Begin your application. The site keeps track of your progress, so you know how you’re doing. For our application, the only thing you’ll need to do more than one time is the essay. The other pieces transfer to multiple applications (if there are more than one for which you’re eligible)



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| * **Overview**: Application status. Most applications have between 5-7 tasks to complete.
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| * **Submit button**: This is the final submit button. Once all tasks have been completed, this button will turn green. An application must be submitted before the deadline. Once submitted, you cannot edit it.
* **Preview:** Preview your entire application
* **Options:** Download or delete your application
* **Tasks:** Shows the status (symbols below) of each task – all must be complete before submitting.
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You can do the tasks in any order that you want, and you can also start, save, and come back another time to finish. Just remember, our deadlines are firm, we do not make extensions for any reason, and applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on the deadline date.