

Texas FFA Scholarship Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q. What is the Texas FFA scholarship application deadline?
- A. The deadline to submit application varies in each area. Potential applicants should consult their local agricultural instructor to learn due dates for their respective area.
- Q. Can I apply for a specific scholarship?
- A. No. Applicants apply for a Texas FFA scholarship. Applicants are scored and ranked through a process of scholarship checks. Scholarships are allocated based on rank in the field of finalists and donor criteria.
- Q. Are all applications considered?
- A. Yes. All applicants who meet the minimum qualifications are considered. Applications are first evaluated and scored at the area level using the same scoring criteria applied in the state selection process. Each area is allowed a specified number of state qualifiers. If your application is a state qualifier, it goes in to a pool of about 300 applications at the state level. From this pool, about 140 state finalists are selected.
- Q. If I graduate at midterm, can I still apply?
- A. Yes. However, if you attend college in the spring, the scholarship cannot retroactively cover expenses incurred during that semester. The scholarship will start the fall semester.
- Q. If I am a state qualifier, am I guaranteed a scholarship?
- A. No. About 300 state qualifiers are forwarded to the state level by the areas. If you are selected as a state finalist, your odds of receiving a scholarship are very high, but this is not a guarantee. You must still meet donor criteria.
- Q. Do I have to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to apply?
- A. Yes. Each Texas FFA Scholarship applicant must complete the FAFSA during their senior year (application opens October 1 each year) and report the EFC within the scholarship application. You will also need to attach the FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) to the application.
- Q. If my parents file an IRS tax return extension, can I still file financial data in the FAFSA process?
- A. Yes. FAFSA allows the use of financial documentation other than a tax return.
- Q. How does the interview process work?
- A. Candidates are scored, ranked and placed into interview pools. An approved list of interview questions is available on the Texas FFA website. Candidates will provide a 90 second introduction and then randomly draw a pre-determined number of questions to answer for the committee.
- Q. If I am not named as a finalist, is it still possible for me to receive a scholarship?
- A. Yes, depending on where you finish in the application assessment rankings. If a finalist withdraws, the next qualified candidate on the list will be moved into the interview pool. If a candidate does not meet donor criteria for the scholarship for which they qualify based on score, alternates will be moved into the pool.
- Q. What if I cannot attend the state FFA convention?
- A. Attending state convention is a condition for receiving a Texas FFA scholarship. If there are extenuating circumstances which prevent you from attending, these must be explained in writing to the State FFA Executive Director prior to the convention. All circumstances will be reviewed and verified and a decision shall be rendered in writing. Exceptions to the attendance rule are extremely rare. Failing to attend is considered a breach of the scholarship agreement and is grounds for revoking a scholarship.
- Q. Following scoring at State Degree Check, are the application scores posted?
- A. No. Only the applicants name and scholarship received is posted. However, teachers may request their students' score. Texas FFA will also provide the teachers with scoring averages for the overall candidate pool.
- Q. If I have applied for a Terry Foundation Scholarship, can I still apply for the Texas FFA Scholarship?
- A. You may still apply for the Texas FFA Scholarship if you have applied for the Terry Scholarship. HOWEVER, if you receive the Terry Foundation Scholarship, you will automatically be ineligible to continue the Texas FFA Scholarship process.

Texas FFA College Scholarship Eligibility and Requirements

22.4 Candidate Eligibility and Application Requirements

(a) To be eligible to apply for a Texas FFA College Scholarship, an applicant must:

- (1) be an active member of the Texas FFA Association for the current year and at least two of the three previous years, be listed on the State FFA Roster, and be in good standing with the Texas FFA Association.
- (2) be a U.S. citizen. If the applicant's transcript reflects a place of birth other than the United States, proof of naturalization must be shown to a high school records official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.) or the agricultural science teacher, who will then verify it as part of the application.
- (3) declare intent to attend a Texas college or university in the fall semester of the application year.
- (4) be a current year graduating senior.
- (5) upon graduation, have completed at least three (3) academic calendar years and at least five (5) different semesters of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instruction during grades 9 through 12. Course credits received through Credit By Examination shall not count towards satisfying the five (5) different semesters of instruction. All AFNR courses taken in one semester shall be counted as one semester of instruction.
- (6) score at least **1000** on the SAT, or at least **19** on the ACT.
- (7) be in the upper one-half of his/her class, based on scholastic rank, for the first three and one-half (3.5) years of high school for all scholarships, except the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Wallrath Educational Foundation, Rodeo Austin Scholarships, which require that the student be in the upper one-fourth.
- (8) be present in **Official FFA Dress** (according to the *Official FFA Manual*) at all scholarship interviews (district, area, and state).
- (9) submit the most current Texas FFA Scholarship Application.
- (10) Candidates who receive a Terry Foundation Scholarship are NOT eligible to receive a Texas FFA Academic Scholarship.

(b) The Texas FFA College Scholarship Application must:

- (1) be generated as a PDF by the official online Texas FFA Scholarship Application
- (2) have all applicable pages completed
- (3) contain all requested signatures
- (4) contain no supplemental pages that are not requested
- (5) be accompanied by the student's official transcript for the first three and one-half (3.5) years, which is signed by a school records official (principal, counselor, registrar, etc.) and certified with a school seal. If more than one page is submitted, each page of the academic achievement record must display a school seal. Applicant must provide official college entrance exam scores that are either attached to the official high school transcript or printed off of the official online report from the applicant's College Board/ACT Account.
- (6) be submitted in an official FFA award folder.

(c) All scholarship recipients **MUST BE PRESENT** in Official FFA Dress (according to the *Official FFA Manual*) at the State FFA Convention scholarship sponsors' dinner and the awards ceremony in order to receive an FFA scholarship. Any exceptions must be approved by the Texas FFA Association. Petitions for exceptions resulting from extenuating circumstances must be filed with the Texas FFA Executive Director no later than July 1. Texas FFA reserves the right to verify identity of interviewees and recipients.

Texas FFA College Scholarship Process Information

The purpose of the Texas FFA College Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to the most capable and deserving FFA members from each area of our state wishing to pursue a bachelor's degree from a Texas college or university in preparation for a successful career. The scholarship applicants should pursue a degree plan that meets the criteria of their scholarship award. Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis contingent upon the approval from the donor of a specific scholarship and/or the availability of a recognized agricultural or life science transfer program from the applicant's chosen institution.

The Texas FFA College Scholarships are funded by several organizations, persons, and/or firms that share a strong commitment to agriculture and life sciences and a strong belief in the members of the Texas FFA. They want to see their scholarship recipients succeed in earning a college degree. Therefore, the selection of candidates is done on a competitive basis. Criteria used in selecting scholarship recipients will include: (1) scholarship or academic achievement, (2) SAT or ACT scores, (3) agriculture, food and natural resources instruction, (4) FFA achievement, including the supervised agricultural experience program, (5) financial need, (6) performance during interviews in regards to academics, FFA achievement, and financial need, and (7) donor restrictions.

Each area conducts an elimination process. Each area is allowed to submit a number of applications for an interview at the State Advanced Degree, Award, and Scholarship Committee Meetings, as specified by the Texas FFA Board of Directors. Interviews will be conducted by the State FFA Scholarship Selection Committee, which consists of an equal number of agricultural science teachers from each area and up to five (5) representatives of the agricultural industry. Individuals who have a vested interest as a teacher or parent in the outcome of an area or state selection process may not serve on area or state scoring committees. Upon evaluating the applicants, the committee members will score the applicants. Scores will be compiled dropping the high and low scores which constitutes 20% of the scores. Rankings will be determined by the highest total scores. The value of the scholarship received will be determined by the final ranking, with the highest ranking applicant(s) receiving the highest dollar value scholarship(s), and remaining applicants receiving scholarships of descending value based on descending rank and donor criteria. The committee shall not discriminate against candidates declaring non-agricultural majors but such candidates may be eliminated by donor criteria should they not qualify for a non-major specific scholarship. Applicants not invited from each area will be considered alternates but will not be interviewed. Scholarship candidates who do not qualify for a scholarship by virtue of declared major shall be replaced by the highest ranking eligible alternate. Interview times are assigned randomly and each applicant will be notified of his/her time prior to the State Advanced Degree, Award, and Scholarship Committee Meetings. It is possible that all applicants selected for an interview will not receive a scholarship.

Funds will be sent to the financial aid officer of the recipient's chosen college or university at the rate specified. The funds are to reimburse the college or university for the student's tuition and/or fees in the amount not to exceed the total specified sum. The unexpended balance of the scholarship may be used to defray other legitimate expenses incidental to college attendance.

It is mandatory that the scholarship recipient attend college the fall semester immediately following selection. Only with special permission from the donor and the State FFA Executive Director, may the use of the scholarship be deferred one year. The scholarship recipient must attend the scholarship sponsors' dinner and the awards ceremony at the next state FFA convention.

Major Fields of Study for Texas FFA Scholarships (NOT Applicable to HLSR, SALE, Rodeo Austin or Wallrath Scholarships)

Approved by the Texas FFA Board of Directors on March 26, 2018

CORE/BASIC SCIENCES

Biochemistry
Biology
Biomedical Science
Biotechnology
Cell and Molecular Biology
Chemistry
Communication Science
Engineering (All Categories)
Genetics
Microbiology
Pharmacology

HUMAN & ANIMAL SCIENCES

Animal Science
Applied Science in Vet Tech
Community Development
Dairy Science
Equine Science
Food and Nutrition
Food Science
Food Technology
Nursing
Nutrition/Scientific Nutrition
Poultry Science
Pre-Med
Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Speech Pathology
Sports Management
Veterinary Science
Zoology

Agricultural Science

Agricultural Systems
General Agriculture
Interdisciplinary Agriculture
International Agriculture Commerce
Land Use and Planning
Landscape Architecture
Production Agriculture
Rangeland Ecology and Management
Recreation and Parks

NATURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Aquaculture
Atmospheric Science
Bioenvironmental Science
Conservation Science
Ecological Restoration
Entomology
Environmental Conservation
Environmental Studies
Fisheries
Forestry
Integrated Pest Management
Mariculture
Marine Biology
Meteorology
Natural Resource Management
Plant & Environmental Soil Science
Range Science
Renewable Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation
Spatial Sciences
Wildlife Science
Wildlife Sustainability & Ecosystem Science

SUPPORTING AG/LIFE SCIENCE CURRICULUMS

Agricultural Communications
Agricultural Development/Interdisciplinary Agriculture
Agricultural Economics/Agricultural Business
Agricultural Education
Agricultural Journalism
Agricultural Leadership & Development
Agricultural Research
Agricultural Science
Agricultural Services and Development
Agricultural Systems Management
Agriculture and Applied Economics

PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES

Agronomy
Botany
Clothing and Textiles
Crop Science
Ecology
Enology
Floriculture
Horticulture
Plant Science
Soil Science
Turfgrass Science
Viticulture

OTHER

Criminal Justice
Pre-Law
Forensic & Investigative Science