



OFFICIAL RULES

Georgia United Foundation College Scholarship Competition

Scholarship applications (with requirements attached and submitted) are accepted through January 31, 2024, at 11:59 pm ET. No extensions will be provided for entries.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicant or the applicant's parent or grandparent must be member(s) of Georgia United for at least 6 months and be in good standing. Membership will be verified upon receipt of entry.

Immediate family members of Georgia United Credit Union employees or board members are not eligible. Official verification of school acceptance or enrollment must be provided to Georgia United Foundation prior to funds being disbursed. There is no restriction to the applicant's county of residence. Applicant must be a U.S. resident.

Each scholarship program has additional eligibility requirements. Refer to the program details on the following pages for more information.

PUBLICITY

Winners agree to have their names, photos, essay excerpts and/or video submissions published in Georgia United and Georgia United Foundation marketing and promotional materials, publications and press releases.

AWARDS

Awards can be used to help pay tuition, meal plan costs or purchase books and will be paid directly to the college, university or technical school by Georgia United Foundation.

JUDGING

Videos and/or essays will be judged on how well the scholarship entry topic was answered and the creativity and originality of the submission. Aside from the video or essay, students will be judged on community involvement, academic excellence and financial need.

Judging will take place in early February and will be conducted by a panel selected by Georgia United Foundation. Judging criteria will be tabulated to determine the winners. All decisions are final. Winners will be notified in writing and announced on Georgia United Foundation's website.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

A total of \$17,500 will be awarded to twelve students. Each scholarship will be split evenly among two recipients.

- \$5,000 for the Vernon E. Carne Scholarship in honor and memory of our credit union's founder, Vernon E. Carne
- \$2,500 for the Geraldine Tilson Scholarship in honor and memory of Georgia United's first female board chair, Geraldine Tilson
- \$2,500 for the Polly Hinde Scholarship in honor and memory of one of the original 1958 members, who served on the board from 1963-2007, Polly Hinde
- \$2,500 for the Dorothy Dusenberry Pirkle Scholarship in honor of our long-time board secretary, Dorothy Dusenberry Pirkle
- \$2,500 for the Monsignor Stephen Churchwell Scholarship in honor and memory of our board member who passed away while active on the board in 2018
- \$2,500 for the T. Randall Dennis Scholarship in honor and memory of our board member who passed while active on the board in 2020

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be high school seniors graduating in the 2023 – 2024 school year (from date of entry) and enrolling as a full-time student in an accredited college, university or technical school during the 2024 – 2025 school year. Home school applicants are accepted as long as proper accreditation paperwork is provided.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants will create a 1-minute video submission answering the question, "Georgia United and Georgia United Foundation were founded on the principles of supporting the community through education. How are you going to use your education to help your community?"

An application form and additional video submission is required for all high school scholarships. Applications and videos can be submitted through gucufoundation.org/scholarships.

- Applicant must obtain written permission from third parties if filming on property other than their own.
- Video must be no longer than 60 seconds in length. Videos longer than 60 seconds are subject to disqualification.
- If music is included in the video, applicant must submit a complete list of production credits. Music must be original, or applicant must have written permission by the composer/author to use music.
- Only one video submission is accepted per applicant. Video must be original, unpublished work and must address this year's scholarship entry topic.
- Video submission cannot be derogatory, slanderous, offensive or threatening. It must not contain any content or material that displays a third-party advertising, logo, trademark or slogan.
- Applicant is responsible for successfully submitting all entry requirements by the deadline.
- Videos must be uploaded to YouTube in a compatible format such as WMV, MPG, MOV or AVI. Applicants are responsible for including a working link for the uploaded video to the submission.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EDUCATORS PURSUING AN ADVANCED DEGREE

\$5,000 will be awarded through the Frank Thach Scholarship, providing ten educators each with \$500 towards continuing education costs.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be a certified educator currently teaching in a Georgia public school system. Applicant must also be enrolled at an accredited college or university and pursuing an advanced teaching or education degree.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit a 250-word essay answering the question, "Why is an advanced degree important to you, and what meaningful impact do you hope to make on students and in your classroom?" Applicants can apply through gucufoundation.org/scholarships.

Georgia United Credit Union and Georgia United Foundation are not required to report scholarship award funds to U.S. residents as income, either to the IRS or the student recipient or to withhold taxes from scholarship payments. Federal tax laws consider it the student's sole responsibility to know when income is taxable or not, and to report income accordingly on his or her personal tax returns. Scholarship awards are tax-free for the recipient when: The scholarship award is used to pay for tuition and fees, or books, supplies and equipment required for courses at the institution. The recipient is a candidate for a degree at an educational institution that maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and has a regularly enrolled student body (i.e. an accredited college or university).