

USASF College Scholarship – FAQ

What's New for 2026

- **Earlier Deadlines:** Applications due **December 1, 2025**; recommendations due **December 8, 2025**.
 - **Virtual Interviews:** Conducted via Zoom in **January 2026** — no Worlds interviews or presentations.
 - **Awards at Competitions:** Scholarships presented live at **USASF Member Event Producer competitions** nationwide.
 - **No Skills or Highlight Videos:** Judging focuses on academics, leadership, dedication, community involvement, and essay responses.
 - **Recommendation Form:** Only **one recommendation** is required (from **Club Owner or Coach with approval**, or for **Exceptional Athletes**, from a **Coach, Counselor, or Employer**). The **recommendation form will be sent directly to the recommender** chosen on your application **upon submission**.
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Who can apply for the USASF College Scholarship?

Any current **USASF member athlete in good standing** who meets eligibility requirements may apply.

There are **two scholarship paths**:

- **College Scholarship:** For *typical All Star athletes* currently participating in All Star Cheer or Dance and who are **high school seniors**.
 - **CheerABILITIES / DanceABILITIES Exceptional Athlete Scholarship:** For active **USASF CheerABILITIES** or **DanceABILITIES member athletes** who are **high school seniors** or **graduates** accepted into a college, university, trade school, or certification program.
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Is there a minimum GPA requirement?

Yes — a **minimum GPA of 2.5** is required for **College Scholarship applicants only**.

There is **no GPA minimum** for **Exceptional Athlete applicants**.

What materials are required for the application?

College Scholarship Applicants:

- Completed online **application form**
- **Unofficial high school transcript**
- **Headshot** (not in uniform)
- **500-word essay** following required guidelines
- **One recommendation** (from Club Owner or Coach, with Club Owner approval)

Exceptional Athlete Applicants:

- Completed online **application form**
- **Unofficial transcript** or **Work Performance Questionnaire**
- **Headshot** (not in uniform)
- **500-word essay** following required guidelines
- **One recommendation** (from All Star Coach, School Guidance Counselor, or Employer)
- *Bonus consideration:* Transitional services or extracurricular involvement

Note: The **recommendation form will be sent directly to the recommender** you select on your application **upon submission**.

What are the essay requirements?

All applicants must submit a **typed 500-word essay** (Microsoft Word format).

Required topics:

- Why are you going to college/university/trade school?
- What do you plan to study?

Then select two additional prompts from the official list found on the scholarship portal page.

Essays must be **authored by the athlete** and reflect their authentic voice. The use of **AI-generated tools or parent-written content** is **strongly discouraged**.

Are athletic skills or competition results considered in judging?

No. Scholarships recognize **balanced candidates** based on academics, leadership, dedication, community involvement, and All Star participation — **not** athletic performance.

What are the deadlines?

- **Application Deadline:** December 1, 2025
 - **Recommendation Deadline:** December 8, 2025
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How are finalists selected?

Applications are scored based on academics, leadership, essay, and All Star involvement.

- For **College Scholarships**, the top **10 Cheer** and **5 Dance** applicants advance to interviews.
 - For **Exceptional Athlete Scholarships**, finalists are selected based on **essay, recommendation, community involvement, and academics or work performance**, and will also participate in a **virtual interview**.
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How are interviews conducted?

College Scholarship Finalists

Interviews are conducted via **Zoom in January 2026**.

Applicants are evaluated on **leadership, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, communication skills, and goals**.

CheerABILITIES / DanceABILITIES Exceptional Athlete Finalists

Interviews are also conducted via **Zoom in January 2026**.

Applicants are evaluated on **personal growth, confidence, positivity, communication, and overall spirit of All Star involvement**.

Will interviews or presentations take place at Worlds?

No. All interviews and recognition take place **outside of Worlds** to allow athletes and coaches to focus during that busy week.

How are winners announced and recognized?

Scholarship recipients are celebrated at **USASF Member Event Producer competitions** with **sponsors and emcees present**, giving athletes the opportunity to be recognized on stage among their peers.

What types of scholarship awards are given?

Awards include:

- **Gold Awards** – Highest overall scores
 - **Silver Awards** – Second highest scores
 - **KP Connection Award** – Most well-rounded candidate
 - **Excellence Awards** – Leadership, Academics, All Star Dedication, and Community Service
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Who funds the scholarship program?

The program is **fully sponsor-funded**. Since 2008, more than **\$1 million** in scholarships have been awarded to All Star athletes.

Action Moments Photography
CheerSounds
Double Good Virtual Fundraising
JDP
Rebel Athletic
Ross Athletic Supply
SportsEngine Motion
Star Spirit Productions

We thank these partners for their continued commitment to supporting athletes' educational journeys and strengthening the All Star community.