

USASF College Scholarship – FAQ

What's New for the 2027 Application Cycle

Earlier Deadlines: Applications due November 1, 2026; recommendations due November 8, 2026.

Virtual Interviews: Conducted via Zoom on December 16–17, 2026.

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.

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 USASF member athletes currently participating in All Star Cheer or Dance at a USASF member club, and who are high school seniors. Athletes must remain active and in good standing with a USASF member club from the time of application through the scholarship awards presentation to maintain eligibility.
- **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.

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: November 1, 2026
- Recommendation Deadline: November 8, 2026

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.

How are interviews conducted?

College Scholarship Finalists

Interviews are conducted via Zoom on December 16–17, 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 on December 16–17, 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 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 during their existing awards session, giving athletes the opportunity to be recognized in front of family and friends.

Can an athlete win more than once?

No.

The USASF College Scholarship Program is designed to recognize as many deserving athletes as possible. Athletes may only receive a USASF scholarship one time, including CheerABILITIES and DanceABILITIES Exceptional Athlete recipients.

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

Who funds the scholarship program?

The program is fully sponsor-funded.

Since 2008, USASF has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to more than 300 deserving All Star athletes.

Current Scholarship Partners:

- Action Moments Photography
- B leJit Choreography
- CheerSounds
- Double Good Virtual Fundraising
- Hit Zero
- JDP
- Primo Ticketing
- Rebel Athletic
- SportsEngine Motion
- Star Spirit Productions

- Varsity Spirit

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