



National Scholarship Program Application Instructions and FAQ

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If you have additional questions, please contact Kristen at kjackson@sigmadeltatau.org or (317) 846-7747

General Information

1. When is the application available for Sigma Delta Tau Foundation scholarships?

The 2026 Sigma Delta Tau Foundation National Scholarship program opens January 9, 2026, and remains open until midnight EST on March 31, 2026.

2. How do I apply?

The application can be accessed only when the portal is open. Visit the Scholarship webpage for more information and to access the online application. If you are a first-time user, you will be prompted to create an account.

3. What if I applied last year using SmarterSelect and don't remember if I have an account?

Previous users can log in with the email they used to create their personal account. Click the "Forgot Password" link if you do not remember your original password.

4. What criteria is used for selection?

Financial needs based and merit-based awards are available. Reviewer scores are a combination of factors, including academic merit, participation in SDT, and campus and community service involvement. Special consideration, including financial need evaluation, is given to sisters who align with criteria for specific awards.

5. Who selects the recipients?

The evaluation of all candidates is done by members of the Sigma Delta Tau Foundation Scholarship Committee using established guidelines and scoring rubrics with review by the Foundation Scholarship Chair and Foundation Executive Director.

6. How many scholarships are awarded each year?

The total awards and scholarship amounts vary from year to year.

Eligibility

1. Who can apply?

Scholarships are available to all initiated members of Sigma Delta Tau who are full time

students in a college degree program. Undergraduates must be members in good standing for at least one academic year, initiated in spring 2025 or before. Postgraduate/Alumna applicants must have been in good standing as undergraduates. Sisters who have already received two SDT Foundation scholarships are ineligible.

2. I was just initiated last spring (2025). Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you are eligible to apply because the scholarship awards cycle ends July 1, 2026, allowing you to meet the one academic year of SDT membership requirement.

3. Can I reapply if I was unsuccessful in the past?

Yes, of course! The number of applicants and competition vary from year to year, and you may qualify in the new cycle.

4. Can I apply if I have already been awarded a scholarship?

Yes, you can receive up to two scholarships from the SDT Foundation.

5. I am a member of a chapter that has a scholarship and/or am studying in a field that has a specific scholarship. Should I apply for a specific scholarship?

You will be considered for all scholarships for which you qualify. We have had multiple winners from the same chapter in which only one candidate received the chapter scholarship, but the other applicants of the same chapter received other scholarships.

6. I am currently an undergraduate but plan to attend graduate school next year. Which application should I use?

Submit the Postgraduate/Alumna application. We will confirm enrollment as part of the scholarship award confirmation.

7. Can I apply for a Postgraduate/Alumna scholarship if I do not know the school I am going to attend?

Yes! Just list the schools you have applied to. If awarded a scholarship, you will be asked to submit your acceptance letter and proof of registration in July.

8. Which application should I use if I am not graduating in four years?

If you have not yet received your undergraduate degree, use the Undergraduate application.

9. Is there a minimum GPA to apply?

Yes, the minimum cumulative GPA is 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Your academic record and any honors received will be reviewed during the evaluation process.

10. Can I use the Sigma Delta Tau Foundation scholarship to cover membership dues and chapter fees?

No. Scholarships can only be used to support educational expenses, including tuition, course related fees, textbooks, and other materials required for course enrollment. Scholarships cannot be applied towards room and board. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, the SDT Foundation cannot support social expenses, such as membership dues and chapter assessments.

11. Will all applicants receive an award?

Unfortunately, we are unable to award a scholarship to each deserving candidate. You may reapply next year.

Application Information

1. Do I have to complete my application in one session?

No. You can save your application and return to it when you have more time.

2. What key information do I need to have available when I apply?

- current transcript and cumulative GPA
- educational costs for academic year 2026-2027
- financial information – FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) (required for financial need based awards)
- contact information for two individuals who will complete a letter of recommendation on your behalf
- personal essay
- high resolution photo to be used for successful applicants for promotional purposes. Your photo will not be available to those evaluating the applications.

3. What is meant by official cumulative GPA?

Members should report their cumulative GPA based on the most recently available academic period and should report the two digits beyond the decimal.

Verification of GPA and enrollment will be requested from those who are selected to receive a scholarship award. Students are expected to report accurate and truthful information. Any student found to have knowingly reported false information will be deemed ineligible.

4. What financial information is needed?

Undergraduates: Family and personal income, FAFSA information, scholarships and grants received, outstanding loans, and loans applied for the upcoming year.

Postgraduates/Alumna: Spousal (if applicable) and personal income, FAFSA information, grants and scholarships received, outstanding loans, and loans applied for the upcoming year. Applicants do not need to provide this information if not applicable. We suggest you assemble this information before you start the application, so you have it ready when you apply online.

5. What is FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that can be prepared annually by prospective college students to determine their eligibility for student financial aid. Learn more: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

6. How do I submit my application?

Once you have completed each page of the application and entered an email address for your recommendation letter, you can click the Submit Application button.

7. Can I update my application once I click "Submit Application"?

Yes, you can access it up until the portal closes on March 31, 2026, if you need to make a revision.

8. What if I don't know an answer to a question on the application?

Save what you have completed and take the time to find the answer, then return to the portal and complete your application. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

9. Will I receive confirmation when my application is submitted?

Yes, once your application is created and submitted you will receive confirmation.

Supporting Documents

1. What documents do I need for my application?

You will need to provide your latest transcript that includes grades from the Fall semester 2025, recommendation contact information for two individuals (to send request for your reference online), and a high-resolution photo to be used in Foundation promotional literature to publicize winners. A personal essay is also required.

2. Who should provide the recommendation?

We encourage your chapter advisor, recruitment specialist or regional director to submit one of your recommendations, but it is not required. The other is to come from a professor, employer, or mentor. You may request both recommendations from an employer, academic advisor or professor, mentor, or SDT alumna. Anyone completing a reference cannot be related to you.

3. Why do I need a verified email address of the person who will be providing my recommendation?

You will be asked to provide it while completing the application online. Those who provide references will receive a link to the recommendation survey using the email address you submitted. You will receive an email confirmation once the recommendation has been received. If you do not receive the confirmation or you contact your reference and they have not been sent the link, contact Kristen at kjackson@sigmadeltatau.org. You are responsible for making sure we receive your recommendations no later than April 10. If we do not, your application will be considered incomplete.

4. What is required in the personal essay?

The essay will be submitted online and must be between 750-1000 words. Your essay should be well-written and edited prior to submission, as it will be used during evaluation. We encourage you to prepare your essay before you submit it online.

Important Dates/Recipient Notification

1. When is my scholarship application due?

The application is due at midnight EST on March 31, 2026.

2. What is the deadline for recommendations to be submitted?

The recommendation should be received by April 10, 2026.

3. When will I be notified if I have been chosen or not?

Successful applicants will receive instructions via email to complete a processing form in order to receive the award. This email will be sent the week of June 28, 2026.

4. When are scholarship funds dispersed?

Scholarship checks will be mailed to the bursar's office at your school once you have completed recipient instructions. For larger scholarships, disbursements will be August and January.