



Bridge to Success Scholarship

Application Guide

FMFCU Foundation is awarding one \$4,000 Bridge to Success Scholarship to a high school senior within the Chester Upland School District who will be attending a full time course of study at an accredited two or four year college, university, trade, technical or business school. The scholarship recipient will be recognized at the FMFCU Foundation Celebration on April 16, 2026 at The Drexelbrook in Drexel Hill, PA.

ELIGIBILITY

- Qualified applicants must be a graduating high school senior who will be attending a full time course of study at an accredited two (2) or four (4) year college, university, trade, technical, or business school
- Applicants must be registered and attend a Chester-Upland High School
- Recipient must be able to attend the FMFCU Foundation Celebration on April 16, 2026, at The Drexelbrook to personally accept the award
- Employees and volunteers of Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union and FMFCU Foundation, their affiliates, and their immediate family members are ineligible
- Eligible students may apply for the John D. Unangst Memorial, Delco Hi-Q, and Bridge to Success Scholarships but may not receive more than one

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A complete application must be submitted prior to the deadline of January 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST. Applications are only accepted online through the official online submission form. Mailed or hand-delivered applications will not be considered.

For a submission to be considered complete, it should contain all required information, including:

- Personal contact information
- Contact information for school guidance counselor
- Written essay
- Copy of high school transcript (official or unofficial)

ESSAY CRITERIA

Essay Prompt: *How will your education and career goals contribute to your personal growth and make a positive impact on your community and society at large?* Please share your aspirations, experiences, and strategies for achieving these goals.

Please follow these criteria when preparing your scholarship essay:

- **Length:** Maximum of two pages, double-spaced
- **Margins:** Use 1-inch margins on all sides
- **Font:** Choose either Times New Roman or Arial, in 12-point size
- **Identification:** Do not include your name, school, or school district anywhere in, on the essay, or anywhere within the name of the uploaded file

Essays will be scored on a point system based on the following criteria:

- **Addressing the prompt:** Acknowledgement of this year's prompt
- **Effort:** Demonstrates quality, details, personality and insight
- **Wording/Phrasing:** Demonstrates command of language
- **Organization:** Fluid sentence and paragraph structure with clear transitions from the opening statement to the body, and to the conclusion of the essay
- **Revision/Editing:** Subject-verb agreement, consistent verb tense, accurate punctuation, free of spelling errors and typos

ORIGINALITY REQUIREMENTS

All essays must be the applicant's own original work. Submissions will be reviewed for plagiarism, including content generated by Artificial Intelligence tools. Essays found to violate these standards will be disqualified.

SELECTION PROCESS

Scholarships are awarded on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis. Scholarship recipients are selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability or other protected characteristics. The essays are anonymously judged by a committee. The application containing student information, including name and school, is hidden from reviewers. The committee is comprised of representatives from the field of education and FMFCU Foundation. Essays will be anonymously scored on a point system based on the categories described above.

A final committee of three judges will evaluate the highest scoring essays to determine the final four recipients. No award may be recommended to a party related to any member of the Scholarship Selection Committee.

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

FMFCU Foundation scholarship recipients shall be notified after the Foundation has given final approval of the scholarship award recipients. Please ensure all applicant contact information is correct, as it will be used by FMFCU Foundation to notify recipients. Recipients shall be required to complete a form indicating their acceptance of the scholarship and confirm attendance at the FMFCU Foundation Celebration.

FUND DISBURSEMENTS

FMFCU Foundation will send scholarship checks directly to the educational institution selected by the recipient, and will instruct the institution to deposit the check into the recipient's school account upon verification of the student's full-time status.

It is the policy of FMFCU Foundation to require educational institutions that have received funds on behalf of the scholarship recipients to return unused funds to the Foundation if the student transfers, or otherwise ceases to be enrolled at the institution, or if the funds cannot be used on behalf of the student for academic purposes or for room and board expenses payable to the institution. FMFCU Foundation does not intend that scholarship awards be made available directly to students.



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship History

Specifically designed for students within the Chester Upland School District, the Bridge to Success Scholarship was created in 2023 to reflect FMFCU Foundation's commitment to supporting educational opportunities and fostering the potential of students in underserved communities. The essay-based scholarship awards one \$4,000 scholarship to a high school senior continuing their education.