Eligibility - FAQ

1. Do I have to be Hispanic/Latino to apply?

Yes. To qualify for this program, students must be at least one-quarter Hispanic/Latino. Hispanic/Latino is an ethnic category, not a racial category; students may be of any race. For purposes of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, students must be from a family whose ancestors came from at least one of these countries: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Spain, Uruguay, or Venezuela.

2. I do not come from a low-income family. Do I have a chance to receive a scholarship?

Yes. Financial need is not considered during selection. The amount awarded each scholarship recipient varies, according to relative need.

3. Is there a minimum GPA requirement?

Yes. High school students must have a minimum cumulative 3.00 GPA, based on a 4.00 scale (or equivalent), and college/graduate students must have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).

High School graduating seniors - Cumulative GPA is the average of grades earned from 9th through the first semester/term of the 12th grade (if available).

Undergraduate college students - Cumulative GPA is required for a minimum of 12 units/credits earned.

- If you are a first-year freshman at the time you apply, enter your high school information and upload your high school transcript, when requested.
- First-year transfer students must enter their high school and community college information on the application. If selected, applicants will need to submit their community college transcripts.

Graduate students - Cumulative GPA is required for a minimum of 9 units/credits earned.

- If you are a first-year graduate student at the time you apply, you will enter your undergraduate college information, and when requested, submit your undergraduate transcripts.

4. I completed and passed a General Education Development (GED) test. Am I eligible for HSF scholarships?

Yes. Students with a GED are eligible for HSF scholarships. However, you must attend a four-year college the following fall term.
5. Do I have to be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident to apply for a scholarship?

No. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), or eligible non-citizen (as defined by Federal Student Aid). For more information, click here.

6. If I am a refugee or have established asylum status, am I eligible to apply?

Yes. Additionally, students with refugee or asylum status must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to qualify for an HSF scholarship. For more information about FAFSA eligibility, click here.

7. If I have an International Student Visa or a Work Visa, am I eligible to apply?

No. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) or eligible non-citizen (as defined by Federal Student Aid). For more information, click here.

8. I do not fall into any of the citizenship/residency categories cited above, but believe I may still be eligible; what should I do?

Please contact HSF’s Scholarship Department here. Make sure to provide a description of your citizenship or residency status in your message so that the HSF Scholarships Team can determine your eligibility.

9. I am a high school student. When can I apply?

High school seniors can begin to apply for HSF scholarships beginning January 1st of every year. Click here to begin your scholarship application.

10. I will be graduating from high school early; am I eligible to apply?

High school seniors can begin to apply for HSF scholarships beginning January 1st of every year. Click here to begin your scholarship application.

11. If I attend, or have attended, a high school or university in another country, am I eligible to apply?

Yes. However, applicants with high school or college grades from another country must report their GPA on the scholarship application. Additionally, all recipients must attend a U.S.-accredited four-year university or graduate school for the fall and spring terms, during the year in which they are awarded.

12. I am older than the traditional college student. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. Our scholarships are not age-based. Students may apply as long as they meet all the eligibility requirements, regardless of age.
13. Do you offer scholarships for Community College Students?

Yes. HSF has a scholarship program specifically for community college students who will transfer to a four-year institution in the fall of the upcoming academic year. Students can only receive HSF funds if they are transferring to an accredited four-year college.

14. I am enrolled part-time. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. Applicants may be enrolled part-time at the time of application. However, students must be enrolled full-time in the fall term, in order to be eligible to receive funding. HSF verifies enrollment before scholarship awards are disbursed.

15. I am a home-schooled student. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. As long as your home school program will issue you an official high school transcript to submit to HSF, you are eligible to apply. Additionally, you may submit a transcript produced by your program or the person in charge of your home schooling, however, the transcript must be signed by credentialed teacher or an individual with a master degree that can attest that the grades listed on the transcript are valid.

Additionally, you must pursue a degree at a four-year college the following school year.

16. I will be on deferment for the fall term, am I still eligible for an HSF scholarship?

No. HSF requires all recipients to be enrolled full time at a U.S. accredited four-year college/university or graduate school for the fall term in the year in which they are awarded. Please note, official institution deferments, documented leaves of absence and gap year programs in the fall will not be considered.

17. I am planning to apply to or currently enrolled in a post baccalaureate or credential program. Am I eligible for an HSF scholarship?

No. Applicants must be pursuing a degree such as a bachelor’s or master’s degree in order to be eligible for HSF scholarships.

18. I am planning to pursue a second degree. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes. Students pursuing a second bachelor’s or master's degree qualify for HSF scholarships. You must report the first degree on your application when asked about your educational history.