

Columbian Club Charitable Foundation Scholarship Application

Our merit-based scholarships generally range from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00. These dollar amounts and the yearly number of scholarships that are awarded may vary according to funding available and the sole discretion of the Columbian Club Charitable Foundation Scholarship Committee.

Applications must be delivered directly to the Columbian Club Charitable Foundation no later than October 15, 2025. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

Applicants must be currently enrolled in college or a graduate program at the time of application or entering their 1st year of college in the next academic year. Applicant must be a United States Citizen, a permanent resident of the State of Illinois, and of Italian American lineage.

The following are the items required for consideration for a scholarship, with instructions for each item:

1. Complete Application (fillable PDF form is included below)
2. Most current transcript to the school you previously attended, with GPA and class rank (The transcript should be from your high school if you are now in college, and from your college if you are now in graduate school).
3. Most current transcript of the school you are now attending, with GPA and class rank (if you are in your first semester of college, your high school transcript is the only one required).
4. Two Letters of Reference. The letter must have the reference's contact information listed under their signature for verification. Letters are not to be sent to the Foundation separately from your application materials – they should be included in your application packet.
5. Written confirmation of acceptance into school (if in your first semester of college or graduate school, or entering in the next academic year)
6. A 2x2 passport style photograph (must be high resolution consisting of professional attire. These photos will be published in different newsletters and magazines advertising the scholarship recipients).
7. Two biological personal statements (see instructions below).
8. Resume, if you possess one.

Instructions for the Biological Personal Statements (two in total):

1. Attach an original essay of 250 words or less (double spaced) explaining how you made an impact in someone's life over the past year, highlighting an Italian American influence in the process.
2. Attach an original essay of 250 words or less (double spaced) explaining why you feel that you need a scholarship, and if awarded one, how will it assist you in your future endeavors.

All required documents must be submitted to the Columbian Club Charitable Foundation as a single complete PDF file at the e-mail address noted below. Please make sure all documents are in order as in the numbered list above (1-8). Files missing documents will not be reviewed.

You must attend our Installation Dinner Awards ceremony to accept your scholarship. The Awards dinner will be held January or February 2026, at a venue in the Chicagoland area to be announced. Scholarship recipients will receive free attendance to the dinner for themselves and a guest.

We will also ask our scholarship winners to volunteer for at the Columbian Club of Chicago Charitable Foundation annual golf outing in July of 2026. The outing is the primary fundraising event for our yearly scholarship program. It provides the members of our fraternal organization and their guests the opportunity to meet our scholarship recipients and learn more about our longstanding tradition of fostering the continued education of future generations of Italian-American students. Many of our prior scholarship recipients have become members of our organization.

All applicants chosen as a scholarship recipient will be notified by December 31, 2025.

Direct all correspondence and application materials to:

Carmen P. Forte, Jr.
Columbian Club Scholarship Committee Chairman
scholarship@columbianclub.org
708-473-1591