O'Brate Foundation

Traditional College Scholarship

Deadline: May 1, 2027

Eligibility Criteria:

- Financial Need
- Age 17 to 25
- 2.5 GPA or Higher
- Kansas High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Full-Time Enrollment at an Accredited Institution of Higher Education
- Work Experience & Continued Commitment to Work
- Drive & Determination to Succeed

To Get Started Go To:

https://obrate.smapply.org/

1. **Personal Information:** Complete basic demographic questions in the Personal Information Document. Then, in order to trigger the remaining application tasks, click **MARK AS COMPLETE.** *(NO ACCESS CODE needed for new applicants)*

2. **Application:** Answer a few questions, enter high school & college information (include applicable GPA's), write a 200-1000 word essay, share work history, list community/school involvement & activities.

3. **Recommendations:** Choose TWO adult references **(employer, teacher, school counselor, pastor, etc.).** Enter the recommender's first & last name, email address & association to you. An email request will then be sent to the specified individual. *See Page 2 for Details*

4. **High School/College Transcript Request:** Request OFFICIAL transcripts, then check "Yes, My Transcripts Have Been Requested." *See Page 2 for Details*

5. **FAFSA:** Attach a PDF version of your FAFSA Submissions Summary. Students who are ineligible for FAFSA may upload parent's/guardian's previous year's tax return or W-2 forms to serve as proof of income. *See Page 2 for Details*

6. **Tax Return:** Attach a PDF version of your parent's prior year Tax Return (same return used to enter FAFSA). Students who are considered INDEPENDENT on the FAFSA may upload their tax return. If the previous year's tax return is not available, then the current year return is acceptable.

7. **Authorization to Release Tax Return Information:** A link to this form is available under the application task-line. This form should be **PRINTED, COMPLETED** by the **taxpayer (parent/guardian)**, scanned as a PDF document and uploaded to the application task-line.

8. **SUBMIT:** Once the two Recommendation Forms and all other task-lines show as **COMPLETE,** click the **SUBMIT FULL APPLICATION** button before Saturday, May 1, 2027 at 11:59 p.m. CST.

PLEASE NOTE: We DO NOT grant Deadline Extensions.

Helpful Hints

O'Brate Foundation Contact Info

PO Box 1271, Garden City, KS 67846

1.620.277.7831 1.877.511.3057

submissions@obratefoundation.org

New User:

If this is your first time to visit this site & you have never received other assistance through the O'Brate Foundation, then please follow the steps below to create an account:

» Go to **https://obrate.smapply.org/**
» Click **Register,** then complete validation.
» Access App w/ Existing User Directions

Please use a **PERSONAL EMAIL ACCOUNT** in lieu of a high school or USD account.

Existing User:

If you have created an account before, or received a Dual-Credit Scholarship or Immediate Needs Assistance, then please follow the steps below to start the regular application:

» Go to **https://obrate.smapply.org/**
» Enter **Email & Password,** click **Log In**
» Click **Programs** *(upper-right corner)*
» Click **Traditional College Scholarship > More**
» Click **Apply**

Transcripts

Transcripts must be OFFICIAL (signed by the appropriate school official) & submitted **DIRECTLY FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE** to the **O'BRATE FOUNDATION**

Send an Official Transcript

Fax:
» » » 1-877-511-3057
Mail:
» » » PO Box 1271, Garden City, KS 67846
Professional Transcript Service (Parchment, National Student Clearinghouse, etc.)**:**
» » » jayre@obratefoundation.org

PLEASE NOTE: We DO NOT Accept transcripts from students, parents/guardians or via e-mail.

Know What Transcript(s) to Send:

High School Senior:
» » » HS Transcript
College Freshmen:
» » » BOTH HS & College Transcripts
College Sophomore-Graduate:
» » » College Transcript(s)

Once you have requested that your Official Transcript(s) be sent, select **"Yes, my transcript has been requested"** in order to COMPLETE the Transcript Task-Line of the App.

FAFSA

The **2027-2028 FAFSA** opened in Sept. 2026 and is to be completed using 2025 Tax Return information. The **FAFSA Submission Summary** will become available once the FAFSA has been PROCESSED, which is generally 3 to 5 days after submission.

Save Summary as a PDF

» Log in to **StudentAid.gov** Account
» Find **My Activity** on Dashboard
» Select **2027-2028 FAFSA**
» Click **FAFSA Submission Summary**
» Look to the **Upper-RIGHT** corner & **click PRINT** in order to **SAVE** as a **PDF**

Unable to File a FAFSA

Upload a **PDF** copy of parent's/guardian's **2025 Tax Return**

We appreciate **COMPLETE** Docs! Therefore, if there are errors or issues on the FAFSA that need to be resolved, please make CORRECTIONS before uploading.

Recommendations

Please inform both references that they will receive **an email** with **a link** to the **O'Brate Foundation Recommendation Questionnaire**.

The Recommendation Form Task-Lines will show as COMPLETE once the recommender has completed & submitted the form.

PLEASE NOTE: The responses on the Recommendation Forms are hidden from the applicant.

Troubleshooting E-mail Issues

» **No Upload Link Email:** If the Recommenders have not received an e-mail, then they should check their SPAM folder.

» **Still No Upload Link Email:** If 24 hours have passed and the Recommenders have still not received an e-mail, then the student should try resending the request and/or change the recommender and/or the recommender's email.

PDF Tips

Turn Paper into PDF's w/ your Phone!

» Notes App (*iPhone*)
» Google *Drive (Android)*

Turn Website Doc's into PDF's w/ a PC!

» Ctrl+P
» Select "Microsoft Print to PDF" » Print