COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
at the Jack & Peggy Baskin Center for Philanthropy
7807 Soquel Drive • Aptos, CA 95003 • 831.662.2000 • www.cfscc.org

2027-2028 Environmental Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

Program Overview

The Environmental Scholarship is intended to provide financial support to graduate students in good standing at the University of California, Santa Cruz, San Jose State University, OR California State University, Monterey Bay. Inspired by Jim Doane, the founder of this scholarship, and his vision of a world where human ingenuity and environmental stewardship thrive together, we invite you to share how your work advances this balance. We welcome graduate applicants committed to solutions that benefit both people and the planet to apply for the Environmental Endowed Scholarship.

A successful application will demonstrate your passion and ongoing dedication, through your academic work and professional journey (or aspirations), to supporting sustainable coexistence between human societies and natural ecosystems.

Our 2027-2028 application will be open from November 2, 2026, to January 28, 2027. Please review the application instructions carefully before submitting your materials.

Environmental Scholarship awards range in amount from $ 1,000 to $ 5,000.

Applicants will be asked to attach

- Official College Transcript, with final grades through December 2026
- Letter of recommendation
- Demonstration of interest in the scholarship purpose
- Demonstration of financial need

What is the full program timeline?

November 2, 2026 – Scholarship application opens
January 28, 2027 – Deadline (11:59 PM)
February-April 2027 – Application review period
May 2027 – All applicants will be notified of their status via email
Summer 2027 – Scholarship Award funds disbursed

How are recipients selected?

Selections are made by a group of community representatives and trustees who serve on the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County's Scholarship Committee. Awards are approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors, based on the criteria outlined for the scholarship and the recommendations of the Committee.

Click here to review all of the available scholarship opportunities and the eligibility criteria.

*Still have more questions about your application? Please submit **additional** questions **to this form**.*

Required Documents

Does my transcript have to be official?

Request your most recent official college transcript from your most recently completed term.

You do not need a copy with your school seal, but your transcript must contain the most recent grading period's grades and show your cumulative GPA.

Contact your graduate program coordinator or academic department for assistance.

Should I submit all of my information before I request a recommendation letter?

You do not have to wait until all other portions of your application are complete before requesting your recommendation, so you should request your recommendation letter *as early as possible* to ensure there is sufficient time for the recommendation to be submitted by the deadline.

How do I get one? You will need to coordinate with a teacher, professor, academic advisor, or employer who is familiar with your academic performance or community involvement to obtain one. **How do I submit it?** Towards the end of the application, there is an option to send a request to your recommender via the Scholarship Portal, so that your recommender can upload the letter directly to your application. If the letter was sent to you directly, you will also have the option to upload your letter(s) yourself. **Should I start my application early to give my recommender time to fulfill my request by the deadline?** Yes. It may take time to coordinate, so plan ahead, since Letters of Recommendation are due by the application deadline. (Please note: You will not be able to submit your application without a Letter of Recommendation.)

Where and when should I send my supporting documents?

All required supporting documents must be uploaded directly to your online application by the application deadline, January 28, 2027. Only documents that meet the required criteria and are uploaded by the deadline will be accepted.

What should be visible on my documents?

All uploaded documents must include your name in the document preview. If all that is visible is the salutation and your first name (e.g., Welcome, Kris!), this will meet the name requirement.

How long does it take to process my uploaded documents?

If your document was uploaded before the deadline, it will be processed. You will receive a verification email after completing your application and hitting the 'Submit' button. If additional materials are needed, you will be asked to add them when you hit 'Submit', and you will be prompted to hit 'Submit' again once the materials have been added. It is your responsibility to ensure your document has been successfully submitted.

Application Status

How do I know if my application is complete?

Your application status will show as "Submitted" in your Student Portal on your Dashboard. You will also receive a notification email to the email address that you entered on your application, verifying your application submission.

As the applicant, what are my responsibilities?

Your online application form must be submitted, all required documents uploaded, and all required supplements (if requested) added on or before **Thursday, January 28th, 2027, at 11:59 PM.**

It is your responsibility to make sure your application is complete and submitted, that all information is true, and your account information is kept up to date.

Notifications

How will I be notified about the status of my application?

Notifications are sent primarily via email to the email you used to create your account. **Please use an email address you will have access to all year.** Ultimately, it is your responsibility as the applicant to verify your application status by checking your account in the Student Portal.

What notifications will be sent to me?

Application Deadline Reminder:

If you have started your application but have not yet submitted, a reminder will be emailed to you before the submission deadline. Applications must be complete AND submitted to be eligible for review.

Selection Results:

All applicants will be notified of their application status in May.

Funds Disbursed:

Scholarship Award recipients will receive an email announcement including directions for accepting their award and submitting banking information.

*Still have more questions about your application? Please submit **additional** questions **to this form**.*

Award Details

What are the selection criteria?

The Foundation's Scholarship Committee will evaluate the applications and select recipients based on the criteria outlined.

What are the details of the award?

Awards are available to graduate students currently enrolled and in good standing at UC Santa Cruz, San Jose State University, or California State University, Monterey Bay, who have innovative ideas and intend to pursue a career that helps the human species evolve toward a more compatible existence with natural ecosystems.

Is my award renewable?

No, this is a one-time award.

How and when are funds issued?

We send funds via direct deposit! Our team is eager to get funds to our awardees, so when provided with a link to our secure banking information form, complete it upon receipt so that we may test and process your account information and send your funds to you as quickly as possible.

This award can be used towards tuition, fees, books, supplies required for coursework, room and board, and other related expenses at accredited institutions while actively attending school.

Are scholarships taxable?

In certain situations, scholarship funds are considered taxable income for the recipient. The Internal Revenue Service provides information about scholarships on its website at: http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc421.html

For specific questions about how this scholarship grant might impact you personally, please consult a tax professional.

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