

HCA Healthcare Scholars Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the HCA Healthcare Scholars Program?

The HCA Healthcare Scholars Program, established and funded by the HCA Healthcare Foundation, offers scholarships of up to \$5,000 for higher education expenses for dependent children of eligible employees. The 2021 application window will be open from Jan. 4 - Feb. 15 at 3 p.m., Central time.

Eligibility

What are the eligibility requirements for the scholarship?

Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Dependent children, age 26 and under, of full-time or part-time U.S. employees of affiliates of HCA Healthcare, Inc. who have a minimum of 90 days employment with such company as of Feb. 15, 2021. Dependent children are defined as biological, step children or legally adopted children living in the employee's household or primarily supported by the employee.**
***Per IRS guidelines, previous scholarship recipients are eligible to apply even though their parent or guardian may no longer be employed by an HCA Healthcare affiliate.*
- High school seniors, high school graduates, and/or current postsecondary undergraduates
- Plan to enroll in a minimum of 12 hours of undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school for the entire academic year. Online programs meeting the above requirements are accepted.

Note: Children of employees with the title of corporate senior vice president and above are ineligible.

Does the scholarship apply to any field of study?

Yes. Any field of study is eligible. However, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) studies are preferred.

What if my student is a first generation college student?

First generation students will be given preference. A first-generation college student does not have a parent and/or guardian with a completed bachelor's degree or higher. However, all generations of students should apply!

Are homeschooled students eligible for the program?

Yes. Homeschooled students are eligible for the program if considered a high school senior and graduating by the end of current school year.

Are dual enrollment high school students eligible for the program?

No, only current graduating high school seniors and high school graduates are eligible to apply.

Applying to the Scholarship

What is the range of scholarship awards?

Scholarships awards range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. The award amount for applicants without demonstrated financial need is \$2,000. To be considered for higher award amounts, applicants must fill out the financial information requested in the application and demonstrate financial need.

How can I find more information and the online application?

Applicants can access the program guidelines and the online application after it opens Jan. 4, 2021, at <https://LearnMore.ScholarsApply.org/hcahealthcare>.

How long does it take to complete the application?

The application process is estimated to take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete if you have all of your information ready. Please be as thorough as possible as Scholarship America, Inc. can only evaluate what has been provided on the application.

What employee information will be needed to submit with the application?

A parent/guardian, who is an HCA Healthcare-affiliated full- or part-time employee, will need to provide the following employment information: full legal name, HCA Healthcare facility/location and 3-4 ID. The family financial data from most recently filed federal tax return will also need to be provided if the applicant elects to be considered for a higher award amount than a \$2,000 award.

What are the transcript requirements for the application?

As part of the application, students must upload a current, complete transcript of grades. Grade reports are not accepted. Unofficial or online transcripts must display the student's name, school name, grades and credit hours for each course, and term in which each course was taken.

What financial information is needed to complete the application?

If the applicant elects to be considered for a financial need based award, the applicant's parent/guardian(s) must complete the financial section using the most recently filed income tax return.

Information needed:

- State of Residence
- Adjusted gross income
- Total federal tax paid
- Total income of parent/guardian
- Total income of non-HCA Healthcare employed parent/guardian (if applicable)
- Yearly untaxed income and benefits
- Medical and dental expenses not paid by insurance
- Total cash, checking, savings, cash value of stocks, etc.
- Total number of family members living in the household and primarily supported by the reported income

- Marital status of parent or guardian
- Of the total number of family members, number of students attending college at least half- time during the next school year

How is financial need determined?

Financial need is determined by calculating the amount a family can reasonably be expected to contribute toward their child's education using a process similar to the federal methodology (FASFA). All financial components listed on the application are taken into consideration.

What essay questions are required as part of the application?

- Goals Statement: Describe your educational and career goals. (1,000 character limit, including spaces - about 200 words)
- Unusual Circumstances (optional): Please describe how and when any unusual family or personal circumstances have affected your achievement in school, work experience, or your participation in school and community activities. (1000 character limit including spaces - about 200 words)

Does this scholarship require a letter of recommendation?

Yes, students must ask a recommender to complete an online recommendation for them during the scholarship application process. Recommenders should be an adult who knows the student well but is not a relative, such as a high school or college teacher, a counselor, an advisor, or work supervisor. The recommendation deadline is February 22, 2021 at 3 p.m., Central time.

Where does my student send the application?

The application and supporting documents must be submitted online. Your student should carefully review the online application and print a copy to keep before submitting. Applications are evaluated on the information provided in the application, so all questions should be answered as completely and thoroughly as possible. Mailed applications cannot be accepted.

How will I know if my student's application and supporting documents were submitted?

Immediately after your student submits an online application, confirmation that the application was successfully submitted will be sent to the e-mail address submitted during the registration process. If an email confirmation is not received, please return to the electronic application, choose the review tab and confirm all data was entered correctly. If further assistance is needed, follow the online instructions to submit the application. Please note: Incomplete applications will not be considered. There are no exceptions.

Can my student apply if he/she hasn't made a college decision yet?

Yes. When filling out the application, your student should enter the most likely college of choice. After recipients are selected, college choices can be changed at that time.

Does this application integrate with ScholarSnapp?

Yes! If your student has created a ScholarSnapp account for other scholarships, that data can be securely imported into the Scholarship America platform.

When is the scholarship deadline?

Your student's application must be completed and submitted by Feb. 15, 2021, at 3 p.m., Central time.

After Your Student Applies**How does selection work?**

Scholarship recipients are selected based on many different factors, such as academic record, demonstrated leadership and activity participation, honors, work experience, goals statement, unusual personal or family circumstances and an outside recommendation. Once scholarship recipients are selected, financial data is reviewed to determine the amount of each award, ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Recipients whose parents choose not to supply the requested financial information or do not demonstrate financial need as calculated by Scholarship America, Inc. will be eligible to receive a \$2,000 award.

Selection of recipients is made by Scholarship America. In no instance does any officer or employee of the HCA Healthcare Foundation or HCA Healthcare play a part in the selection. All applicants agree to accept the decision as final.

When will my student be notified of the results of the program?

Scholarship America, Inc. will use the email address submitted on the application to notify all applicants in mid-May 2021 whether or not they have been selected to receive an award.

What if mid-May passes and my student has not heard anything?

Your student can check on the status of their application by contacting Scholarship America, Inc. at hcahealthcare@scholarshipamerica.org or on the dedicated HCA Healthcare Scholars phone number at (507) 931-8398.

What if my student discovers changes need to be made to the application after it has been submitted?

Changes to the application cannot be made once it has been submitted. If an applicant discovers a significant error or omission in the application after submitting, the applicant may submit an entirely new application and needs to notify Scholarship America, Inc. about the duplicate application. Please email hcahealthcare@scholarshipamerica.org if submitting a duplicate application and indicate which application should be deleted.

Are all applicants guaranteed a scholarship?

No. This is a competitive scholarship program; not all applicants will be selected as recipients. The number of recipients will depend on the total number of applications submitted and must be in full compliance with IRS 76-47 which regulates the scholarship program.

If Your Student Receives an Award**How are scholarship awards paid?**

Scholarship America, Inc. will disburse the award payment in one installment in August. Checks will be payable to the college or university and mailed to the recipient's permanent home address.

Will my student receive the same scholarship each academic year?

Awards are for one year only. However, students may reapply each year they meet eligibility requirements.

What happens if I leave HCA Healthcare after my student receives the scholarship?

Once a student has received the scholarship, that student may reapply for each applicable year eligibility requirements are met regardless of whether or not the parent still works at an HCA Healthcare-affiliated facility. However, if a student applied and did not receive an award, that student can only reapply if the parent continues to be employed by an HCA Healthcare-affiliated facility.

Additional Scholarship Information**What is Scholarship America, Inc.?**

Scholarship America, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to make a college education possible through scholarships and educational support. The HCA Healthcare Foundation is partnering with Scholarship America, Inc. to administer the HCA Healthcare Scholars Program. Scholarship America, Inc. will process and review applications, select and notify recipients, submit scholarship awards and provide customer service.

Other Questions?

Other questions should be sent to Scholarship America, Inc. at hcahealthcare@scholarshipamerica.org. Or, call the dedicated HCA Healthcare Scholars phone number at (507) 931-8398 or the Scholarship America, Inc. toll-free line at (800) 537- 4180 and ask to speak to one of the HCA Healthcare Scholars representative.

Education Benefits

Are there education benefits available to employees?

Employees are not eligible for this scholarship program. However, HCA Healthcare offers Education Assistance Program which offers student loan assistance and tuition reimbursement to eligible employees. For details, go to HCAhrAnswers.com, click HCA Rewards and select Education Assistance. If your facility does not use HCAhrAnswers, log on to HCArewards.com and click Education Assistance.

What other benefits help employees plan for their student's college?

HCA Healthcare offers membership to CollegeCoach to all benefits-eligible employees. This free benefit gives you private, personalized access to a team of college admissions and finance experts who can help you maximize your student's academic success and plan for college costs. To register, visit <https://passport.getintocollege.com> and use employer username: HCAHealthcare and password Benefits4You. Questions? Call (888) 527-3550 or email hcahealthcare@getintocollege.com.