

# Writing an Effective Scholarship Application

Writing an effective application that is both memorable and engaging for the reader can have a big impact on your chances of being awarded a scholarship. It is one of the few scholarship selection criteria that is completely under your control!

## DO ✓

- **Read the directions on the application.** Sometimes the directions can clarify the intent of the question. If you don't follow the directions, you may give the scholarship committee the impression that you can't or won't follow instructions.
- **Write an outline for your responses.** Writing an outline can help provide focus and structure to the response, presenting your ideas in a more organized and thoughtful way.
- **Use guiding questions to answer your personal statement.** i.e., What engineering-related experiences do you have (internships, student organizations, jobs)? What are your academic and career goals? How will this scholarship assist you in meeting your goals?
- **Give concrete examples.** For example, if you say that one of your best qualities is leadership, give an example where you demonstrated leadership. Then explain what skills you learned or how you grew as a person and as a leader from this experience.
- **Proofread your application.** Check your application responses for correct spelling and grammar usage. If you cut and paste from a word processing program like Microsoft Word, be wary of valid word spelling errors.

## DON'T ❌

- **Don't skip questions.** Do not leave any question blank. An incomplete application will not be evaluated.
- **Don't give vague responses.** A question about community service should not be answered with a vague "I like helping others and feel that it is important," but should also include specific examples where you have helped others and what you learned or how you benefited from the experience.
- **Don't exaggerate.** Selection committees are good at detecting when a student exaggerates, and the dishonesty may cause you to lose a scholarship you might otherwise have been awarded.
- **Don't be afraid to ask for help.** It can be beneficial to have others provide feedback on your writing. Asking trusted family, friends, or advisors for advice can greatly improve the quality and readability of your application.
- **Don't procrastinate.** Fulton's Scholarship Application is open annually from November 1 to February 1. Missing the deadline means you'll miss out on the opportunity to be considered for scholarships until next year's cycle. Unexpected issues can and do arise. Create a plan and stay organized.

Remember that you may edit your application at any time up until the posted deadline. Complete the application as if you were entering a competition – because you are! Respond to the application questions in a careful and thoughtful way. A scholarship award is well worth the effort you invest!

# Common Fulton Scholarships FAQs & Resources

## What kinds of scholarships does Fulton Schools offer?

Fulton offers both merit-based and need-based scholarships. Merit-based scholarships are based on academic performance, and/or other criteria such as leadership, involvement, intended major, and career goals. To be considered for need-based scholarships, students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We recommend students file their FAFSA for the upcoming school year by ASU's January 15 priority deadline.

## When is the best time to apply for Fulton Schools scholarships?

The best time to conduct any kind of scholarship search is several months to a year before you plan to start. The Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering scholarship application is open annually from November 1 until February 1. Awards are applied to the following academic year. Keep in mind that many scholarships are only awarded once a year, so missing the deadline means missing out until the next cycle. *Late applications are not accepted under any circumstances.*

## What do most scholarship applications require?

Most scholarship applications will ask for a personal statement, which addresses your academic and career goals. There may be other essay questions related to academic accomplishments, involvement in extracurricular and leadership activities, and/or research interests. Some scholarships may ask you to submit a resume, references, or letters of recommendations.

**Fulton Scholarships Website:** <https://scholarships.engineering.asu.edu/>

**Fulton Scholarship Application Portal:** <https://scholarships.engineering.asu.edu/application/>

**Graduate Fellowships and Funding:** <https://graduate.engineering.asu.edu/fellowships/>

**International Student Resources:** <https://engineering.asu.edu/international-student-resources/>

**Scholarship Support:** <https://scholarships.engineering.asu.edu/scholarship-support-information-sessions-office-hours/>

**University Writing Centers:** <https://tutoring.asu.edu/student-services/writing-centers>

**ASU Scholarship Portal:** <https://scholarships.asu.edu/scholarship-search>

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>