

IOWA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

2025-2026 Scholarship Guide

Your Complete Guide to IUMF's **Scholarship Program**

WHAT: Each year, the Foundation offers 100+ scholarships to United Methodist students across Iowa who demonstrate academic and community excellence. **Thanks to our generous donors, we will award over \$430,000 in the 2025-2026 academic year,** and cannot wait to get the upcoming scholarship season started!

WHO: Scholarships are available for high school seniors, students attending both non-Methodist *and* UM colleges, and seminary students who are answering the call to join the ministry. With such a range of scholarships available, there may be one for a student in your congregation!

WHEN: Applications are accepted online from **December 1st—March 1st.** See the timeline of events on pages 2-4.

HOW: You can find more information and scholarship criteria anytime on our website: <https://iumf.org/scholarships>. Starting December 1st, there will be an **APPLY NOW** link to click when you are ready to start the application process.

QUESTIONS? See our newly updated FAQ on page 4, or contact Cassie Parks at cassie.parks@iumf.org. For questions about the application portal, email help@mykaleidoscope.com.

Contents

General Info
PAGE 1

Application Best Practices
PAGE 2

Leaving Your Legacy
PAGE 3

FAQ
PAGE 4



Iowa United Methodist Foundation
2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA 50321
515.974.8927 | info@iumf.org | <https://iumf.org>



SCHOLARSHIPS

Best Practices for Applicants

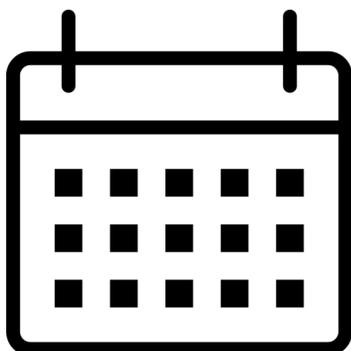
4 Tips for Crafting a Winning Application

Written for potential scholarship applicants by a current IUMF scholarship judge

- 1. Write a thoughtful personal statement.** This essay is your chance to let the judges get to know you *beyond* what is already provided. If you simply recount activities and awards from other sections of the application, it does not give the judges any new information, nor does it set you apart from your peers. Use this chance to promote yourself and your uniqueness!
- 2. Double, triple, quadruple check your recs!** We hate to see an application get disqualified because one or more of the requested letters of recommendation was not submitted. Ask your references for letters as early in the process as possible, and follow-up (thank them!) afterward. Please make sure you only request recs from individuals who will write positive things about you. A negative letter of recommendation is an automatic “no” for a judge.
- 3. Use every opportunity to emphasize your accomplishments.** For instance, if you played basketball, lettered, and were team captain, you should list these as three separate achievements. Or if you were promoted at your job, list two terms of employment on your application to highlight the promotion. Make sure to include any activities that are likely to be mentioned by your references; judges are confused when a recommendation letter showcases a major project or community involvement that was not reported by the applicant themselves.
- 4. Read and complete the application carefully.** One strength of the IUMF application is the submission portal that automatically matches eligible applicants to scholarships *based on the answers provided*. This benefits the applicant because you only submit one application and can potentially be matched to 50+ scholarships. However, this also means you must be meticulous when filling out the application. Each question could qualify or disqualify you from certain scholarships, so answer each one completely and truthfully.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIMELINE OF EVENTS:



NOW—December 1st

PREPARE: check out criteria on our website, brainstorm essay topics, notify leaders in your life that you may ask for a letter of recommendation.

December 1st—March 1st

APPLY: applications can only be submitted through our online portal and only during these dates! Click the **APPLY NOW** link on our website to begin.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Shaping the Future



Leave a Lasting Legacy with a Scholarship at IUMF

Creating a scholarship fund is a meaningful way to make a positive impact that can last for generations. Whether it is to honor a loved one, empower future leaders, reap the tax benefits—whatever your reason for establishing a scholarship, IUMF can help!

It is with humility and a feeling of deep gratitude that I receive your gift of this year's scholarship to continue my educational pursuits. This chance to connect my call to ministry with the support sustained by your Foundation is a true gift that I will continue to honor with my commitment to my work.

-2025 IUMF scholarship recipient

If you want to set up a scholarship fund, either now through a tax-savvy gift, or in your will, check out the free gift-planning tool on our website <https://iumf.giftlegacy.com/> or contact us at 515-974-8927 or info@iumf.org. Our staff will walk you through the process. You can also donate to an existing scholarship anytime by clicking **GIVE** on our homepage.

March 6th, 2026

April—May

June 1st, 2026

CHECK YOUR RECS:

all letters of recommendation must be submitted by midnight on Friday, March 6th.

WAIT: the Foundation's Scholarship Committee reads and assesses every application, then makes award selections. Applicants will be notified of their status by early May.

ACCEPT: all recipients must accept their scholarship(s) online by June 1st. Unacknowledged scholarships will be awarded to alternates.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can you reimburse me/my parents for books or materials already purchased?

A: No. Scholarship funds can ONLY be sent directly to the college or university. Checks CANNOT be made out to individuals. Any reimbursement situation must be worked out between the student and the school.

Q: Why do I have to submit a Verification of Enrollment (VOE)?

A: Many applicants change their mind about which school they will attend, or about attending school at all, between the time they submit their application and the time school starts. We must verify that each recipient is attending school in order to fulfill the wishes of our donors.

Q: When will my scholarship be sent to my school?

A: Checks for fall semester are mailed on July 15th and checks for spring semester are mailed on November 15th. All VOEs must be received by the 10th of the month for those scholarship funds to be paid on the 15th. If a VOE or other requested information is not received on time, the funds will be disbursed the following month. *We recommend that you notify the Office of Financial Aid at your school as soon as you know the amount you expect to receive in scholarships.* They will usually deduct this amount from your tuition statement.

Q: If I received a scholarship last year, do I have to apply again?

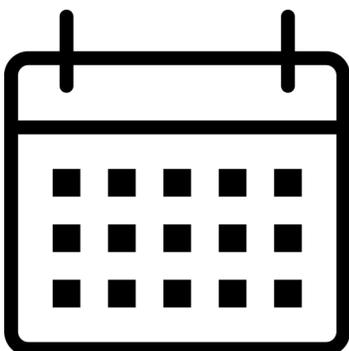
A: Yes! All scholarships are awarded on an annual basis.

Q: What can I do if this did not answer my question?

A: Scholarship questions should be directed to Cassie Parks: cassie.parks@iumf.org. For questions about the application portal or help logging in, use Kaleidoscope's Help Center: <https://help.mykaleidoscope.com/category/4-applicants> or email: help@mykaleidoscope.com.



SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTANCE TIMELINE OF EVENTS:



June—July

BEFORE CLASSES START: submit your Verification of Enrollment (VOE) and any requested documents to IUMF. Notify your Financial Aid Office of the amount you will receive so they deduct it from your tuition.

July 10th, 2026

LAST CALL: VOEs must be received by this date in order for scholarship funds to be disbursed on July 15th. If yours is late, funds will be mailed August 15th.