

# APPLY TODAY!

**DEADLINE**  
3/29 @ 5pm CST



## WHO WE ARE

Stars Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization committed to promoting access to and success in higher education for all students in our community. Based in McAllen, Texas, Stars offers scholarships to students from south and west Texas who are dedicated to completing a degree at an accredited college or university.

Stars Scholarship Fund recognizes the importance of higher education and works to ensure the doors to a post-secondary opportunity are open to all who have the potential to succeed, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, background or lack of resources.



## WHAT WE DO

Stars Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to qualified students from the community annually. Recipients are selected on a competitive basis of academic achievement and financial need through a general application process.

Academic achievement is determined using applicant's official academic records. Financial need is determined by evaluating the applicant's submitted FAFSA documentation.



## WHO WE HELP

**WE HELP**  
UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS  
**ALL**  
AGES, ETHNICITIES AND BACKGROUNDS  
**STUDENTS**  
FROM SOUTH AND WEST TEXAS CAN APPLY\*\*

### SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident with a permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551.
- Be a permanent resident (5 or more consecutive years) of and have a permanent South or West Texas address in one of our 30 counties\*\*

- Have earned/completed at least 12 undergraduate credit hours at a U.S. accredited college or university before applying for the scholarship.

- Have a minimum college cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale.

- Have completed a high school diploma or its equivalent prior to the Fall of the new academic year.

- Be enrolled in a U.S. accredited 2 yr. community college (enrolled part-time or full-time) in a degree-seeking program, or a 4yr. university undergraduate program (enrolled full-time) seeking a Bachelor's Degree, or a university graduate program (enrolled full-time) seeking a Master's, Law or Doctorate degree.

### \*\*TEXAS COUNTIES SERVED

Amaras	Culberson	Hudspeth	Kendry	Nueces	Star
Brewster	Duval	Jeff Davis	Kleberg	Pecos	Terrell
Brooks	El Paso	Jim Hogg	La Salle	Presidio	Webb
Cameron	Hidalgo	Jim Wells	Live Oak	Realguio	Wilkey
		Karnes	McMullen	San Patricio	Zapata

### HOW TO FIND US



**MAIL**  
Stars Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 3068  
McAllen, TX 78502-3068



**PHONE**  
956.994.3271  
1.866.939.7827



**FAX**  
956.928.0327



**EMAIL**  
helpdesk@StarsScholarship.org  
stars.scholarship@gmail.com (transcripts only)



**WEBSITE**  
[www.StarsScholarship.org](http://www.StarsScholarship.org)

### \*YOUR STARS ACCOUNT

All students enrolled are 2016/2017 Stars Recipients

#### All applicants are required to have a Stars account.

- Past applicants can use their existing credentials (email and password). If you don't remember them, select the "forgot password" option, you will be asked for your full Social Security Number and Date of Birth in order to reset password.
- If you are filling out the online application for the first time, you will set up your account at the start of the process.
- You will be asked to provide your email address to set up your account. We will use this email address to communicate with you.
- If you are submitting a hard copy application, you will need to wait until Stars enters your application into our system before your Stars account is enabled. In most cases, this happens after the deadline.
- Once you have an account, you can upload documents and follow your application status. **Uploaded files must be in PDF format and each file must be less than 5 MB. You may only upload one file at a time.**



## APPLICATION GUIDE



STARS SCHOLARSHIP FUND



# HOW TO APPLY

## APPLICATION

Our scholarship application cycle opens each year on January 1st.

**We recommend applying online via our website at [www.stars scholarship.org](http://www.stars scholarship.org).** Applying online will afford you more options in submitting documents and following the application process.

If you are applying online for the first time, you will need to "register" starting with your email address. If you have applied for Stars before, you will use your existing credentials to log in and start the application.\*

You can also download a PDF from our website or pick up a hard copy application at your financial aid office.

**Applications can be submitted online, mailed, emailed or faxed.**

## CERTIFICATION & RELEASE FORM

The Certification and Release Form (CRF) contains release information and outlines the parameters of our scholarship. Forms must be read carefully and must have a hand-written/ink signature to be accepted.

This form is the last page of the hard copy application. Online applicants will be prompted to sign this form electronically before submitting the application.

**The CRF can be mailed, emailed, faxed or uploaded to your Stars account\* (if you applied online).**

## OFFICIAL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT

An official transcript is the University's certified statement of your academic record. The official paper transcript is printed on security sensitive paper and contains the University seal and signature of the University Registrar.

For the purposes of this scholarship, all applicants are deemed eligible based on college/university transcripts, using "institution" GPA.

### We DO NOT accept:

- High school transcripts (unofficial or official).
- Scans of official transcripts.
- Copies of official transcripts.
- Text copy and pasted from your online transcript.
- Screen shots of your transcript.
- Print outs of your online unofficial transcript.
- Unofficial transcripts emailed from your Registrar's office.

Dual and concurrent enrollment hours must be reflected on a college/university transcript in order to be considered.

**Official hard copy transcripts must be mailed. Transcripts do not need to be sealed.**

Secure Electronic PDF transcripts are accepted and must be sent directly from your school's electronic delivery service (not the registrar's office).

**Due to restrictions within our system, we ask that Secure Electronic PDFs be emailed to [stars.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:stars.scholarship@gmail.com).**

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

All applicants are required to provide:

- Completed Application
- Signed Certification and Release Form
- Official College/University Transcript
- Current Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Personal Statement (1 page)

Supplemental documents required by some:

- Letter from Advisor
- Copy of Permanent Resident Card

## STUDENT AID REPORT

The Student Aid Report (SAR) is a paper or electronic document that gives you some basic information about your eligibility for federal student aid and lists your answers to the questions on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You obtain this from the FAFSA website.

- The SAR can be downloaded as a PDF from the FAFSA site after you submit your FAFSA application.
- Please do not send us links to the FAFSA site where you are viewing your SAR, for your security FAFSA does not allow us to access your information.

**Make sure your Student Aid report has an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) score on it, the aid year is noted and your full name is on it before you send it to us.**

All applicants are required to apply for the FAFSA and submit it to your school. *Note that it is not required you accept any aid offered by your school or that you qualify for aid in order to be considered for our scholarship, we only ask that you submit the application.*

**The SAR can be mailed, emailed, faxed or uploaded to your Stars account\* (if you applied online).**

## PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD

Applicants that are not a U.S. Citizen must provide us with a scan or copy of their current Permanent Resident Card.

**The copy can be mailed, emailed, faxed or uploaded to your Stars account\* (if you applied online).**

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

Stars uses this personal statement to learn more about our applicants. Applicants should tell us about themselves, their financial need, and their accomplishments.

● Personal statements must be typed, a minimum of 1 page, 12pt font, and double spaced.

● For applicants emailing their personal statement we recommend you type it in Word and send as an attachment, as opposed to typing your statement in the body of the email.

● Statements that are not a minimum of 1 page will be rejected.

**The Personal Statement can be mailed, emailed, faxed, or uploaded to your Stars account\* (if you applied online).**

## LETTER FROM ADVISOR

This is NOT a letter of recommendation. This letter is to notify us of any special considerations that need to be made to your enrollment criteria.

All university students are required to be full-time. Exceptions are made to full-time enrollment if applicants are enrolled in clinical rotations, student teaching, internships or a similar program, where the program requires less than full-time enrollment due to additional hours put in to the program outside of class.

- If full-time status will not be affected, we do not need a letter submitted.
- Letters must be specific to the time frame that the student is enrolled in said program.
- Stars does not make exceptions for full-time enrollment due to work schedules.
- Letters should be on school letterhead and include contact information for your advisor.
- Emails from school advisors are also acceptable if they are sent from the advisor's institution email.

**Letters can be mailed, emailed, faxed, or uploaded to your Stars account\* (if you applied online).**