



NextStep FCU Academic Grant

ENTRY DEADLINE: January 31, 2026

THE AWARD

The NextStep FCU Academic Grant is a \$500 award given annually to an applicant currently pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited college or university.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must be a member in good standing at NextStep FCU who meets all of the following criteria:

- currently enrolled in an accredited college or university and will be progressing to the level of sophomore or above by fall semester of 2026
- maintains at least a 3.0 grade point average
- demonstrates strong leadership abilities through involvement in organizations, the local community, service groups or other similar activities

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete this application form in its entirety. If you need more space than provided on this form, you may attach separate sheets of paper. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT neatly. Return to the credit union along with the required attachments listed below on or before the January 31, 2026 deadline.

Check each line after completion:

- _____ One recommendation from a professor/instructor or former high school teacher
- _____ One non-academic recommendation (employment, church, community representative, etc.)
- _____ One essay (topic is noted in the application)
- _____ A copy of your most recent college transcript

SELECTION CRITERIA / JUDGING

Applicants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Scholastic achievement (e.g. grade point average, academic honors and awards)
- Character and leadership (e.g. extra-curricular and community activities, honors, awards, achievements, and recommendations)
- Essay response
- Financial need

QUESTIONS? Call Alyssa at NextStep FCU 518-286-1611

COMPLETED APPLICATION CAN BE DELIVERED TO A BRANCH OR MAILED TO:

NextStep FCU Scholarship Committee
150 Defreest Drive
Troy, NY 12180

2026 NEXTSTEP FCU ACADEMIC GRANT - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please complete the following information in its entirety. Type or print clearly. If more space is needed, you may attach separate sheets of paper. Be sure that your name is on any separate sheets

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: () _____ - _____ **E-mail:** _____

Member #: _____ **Field of Study:** _____

College/University: _____ **GPA:** _____

Circle One: GRADUATE / UNDERGRADUATE **Anticipated Graduation Date:** ____/____/____

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Please use this area to detail any honors, awards and years of participation. This may include high school or collegiate honors, principal's/dean's list, student athlete awards, etc.

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

Please use this area to detail any extracurricular activities you have or are currently participating in. This may include internships, clubs, sports, newspaper/yearbook, etc.

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER WORK

Please use this area to detail any community activities and volunteer work including years of participation. This may include community service or volunteer work, religious groups, positions held in organizations, etc.

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

EMPLOYMENT

Please use this area to detail any paid employment that you have had or places you are currently employed.

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

LEADERSHIP ROLES

Please use this area to detail any leadership positions held. This may include sports teams, student groups, community groups, etc.

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

Date(s): _____ **Description:** _____

ESSAY

Please attach a typed essay on how your field of study will contribute to your immediate or long range career plans. Also include a brief description of how this award will benefit your financial needs. Your essay should be a minimum of 500 words.

CERTIFICATION OF INFORMATION AND APPLICANT SIGNATURES

I certify that everything I have stated in this application and any attachments provided are true and accurate. I authorize the release of the information included in this application in order to verify its accuracy. If I am awarded this scholarship I agree to allow publication of my name and photograph in print and/or electronic publications announcing the award.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

