

Questions? Call Alyssa at 518-286-1611



# NextStep Academic Grant

The NextStep 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 School Systems 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 2024
- 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, 2025 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

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

NextStep Scholarship Committee  
150 Defreest Drive  
Troy, NY 12180

**ENTRY DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2025**

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**2024 NEXTSTEP 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 included on any separate sheets.

STUDENT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

MEMBER # (OR NAME OR RELATED MEMBER AND RELATIONSHIP)

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

GPA

UNDERGRADUATE

GRADUATE

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

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**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 girl/boy scouts, community service or volunteer work, religious groups, 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

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**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

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE DATE