



2025 LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION

The 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program (LECSP) awards full-tuition scholarships to students from each county in Indiana.

Apply at: bit.ly/2024-25LECS

Or visit our website: owencountycf.org/students

Deadline: Saturday, August 31, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

Eligibility:

- The student's permanent address must be in Owen County. To be eligible, you do not need to attend high school in Owen County.
- Applicants must be high school seniors graduating by June 30, 2025, and not prior to June 30, 2024.
- Applicants must have a high school diploma from an Indiana high school accredited by the State Board of Education or by a national or regional accreditation agency that the State Board of Education recognizes.
- Recipients must pursue undergraduate study in a baccalaureate program full-time.
- Recipients may attend any accredited public or private four-year college or university in Indiana.
- By June 15, 2024 (i.e., the end of their junior year) the student must have a minimum cumulative unweighted grade-point average of 3.75 or higher and have an SAT/ACT score of 1100 or above, or the ACT equivalent (21). The SAT/ACT score must be available and verifiable by the application deadline.
- Financial need is not taken into account for this scholarship.

Benefits:

- One scholarship will be awarded to a singular Owen County resident.
- Pays full tuition and required fees for four years; no re-application process is required.
- \$900 book stipend each year.
- Does not pay room, board, or travel expenses.

Timeline:

- **Monday, July 1, 2024:** Online Application Portal Opens
- **Thursday, July 11, 2024 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm:** In-person LECS help available at the OCCF office - 60 E Market St., Spencer, IN 47460
- **Sunday, August 11, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm:** In-person LECS help available at the OCCF office - 60 E Market St., Spencer, IN 47460
- **Saturday, August 31, 2024 @ 11:59 p.m.:** 2024-25 LECS Application Due!
- **Monday, September 9, 2024:** Finalists are announced - an invitation to interview will be sent out via email.
- **Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4, 2024:** LECS Finalist Interviews - **Please make sure you are available and have reliable transportation to attend your assigned interview time!**
- **December 2024:** Scholarship winners will be notified by Winter Break

Application Criteria:

- **40% Academic Performance:** Factors such as unweighted GPA, class rank, AP scores, rigor of courses, and academic honors will be used.
- **20% Essay, Activities, & Work Experience:** A strong essay will clearly address the prompt, include specific examples, and will use proper spelling/grammar/punctuation. Activities and work experience will be scored based on the reported examples' quality, time commitment, and skills acquired/learned. Verification of activities is required.
- **20% Honors, Awards, & Leadership:** Honors and awards will be scored based on quality, caliber, and variety of experiences in civic and community affairs, academics, and/or sports and extracurricular activities.
- **20% Letter of Recommendation & Interview:** Selected students will be asked to participate in a 15-20-minute interview with our Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Committee. The Committee will be familiar with your academics, essays and short responses, extracurricular and work activities, awards/honors, leadership roles, and references before the interview. This will allow the Committee to ask more specific questions during the interview that could help their decision and scoring.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN I APPLY?

The OCCF employs an easy-to-use online scholarship application platform. This application can be accessed from our website owencountycf.org -> click STUDENTS at the top of the page -> click the LOGIN TO SCHOLARSHIP MANAGER button.

You'll be able to see all the application criteria and create an individualized account. After creating an account, you can save information to your application and see any incomplete sections. When creating your account, you should receive automated emails from the system confirming application creation and submission: you may need to check your spam folder.

DO NOT use your school-issued email address to create your account!

HOW CAN MY PARENTS HELP ME WITH THE APPLICATION?

We encourage parental support during the scholarship application process. Parents can help proofread essays or extracurricular activity summaries.

Because this is a competitive college scholarship, it is expected that students take full responsibility for completing their own application by the deadline. All information in the application must be written by the student.

CAN I APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT SCHOOL OR PROGRAM I WANT TO ATTEND YET?

Yes! We know that plans change (or may not even be formulated yet). That's okay. Just give us an idea of what you're thinking about pursuing at this point and explain what you're looking for in a future college or career.

I HAVE TAKEN THE SAT/ACT MULTIPLE TIMES: WHAT SCORE SHOULD I INCLUDE?

There is only space for your guidance counselor to include one test score. This should be your highest overall SAT/ACT score.

HOW SHOULD I WRITE THE ESSAY?

Remember that the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Committee will be reading several of these essays. Keep it interesting but get to the point. Some tips:

- Our Scholarship Manager does not have a comprehensive spelling and grammar checking feature, so you may want to compose your essays in Word or another word processing program before pasting them into the essay fields.
 - Outline your thoughts before you start writing: this will help keep your essay clear and concise. Don't forget transitions!
 - There is no required citation style for the essay. However, you should be consistent throughout. Proper grammar, correct spelling, and accurate punctuation are a must. Talk to your English teacher, guidance counselor, or parent about proofreading your essay. They may catch an error that you didn't see.
 - Check out our website listing page for additional help.
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WHO SHOULD I ASK TO COMPLETE MY VERIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES?

This application requires two letters of verification for two of the extra-curricular activities you have reported. These can come from a teacher, mentor, coach, manager, or another adult not related to you. It is best practice to use two different persons to verify your activities.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO COMPLETE MY LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION?

You only need one reference for your letter of recommendation. This can be a teacher, employer, coach, pastor, scout leader, or any other educator or community leader who can provide feedback on your personal character, work ethic, and potential to succeed in college. This cannot come from someone related to you. If you have your letter of recommendation completed by a friend or family member you will receive the lowest score for this section. Think about who can give you a high-quality reference: who knows you well, can speak to your character and potential, and can spend adequate time writing a good reference?

The online reference form does not take long to complete, but you should still ask your reference right away. Many educators and community leaders are asked to complete multiple references, so the earlier you ask, the better chance you have that they will agree and be able to complete the form with quality information about you. You should provide them with any information they may need to complete an accurate recommendation (you may want to remind them of your relevant coursework, community/work involvement, or future aspirations). Ensure that you are using an email address that the individual checks often, or let them know in advance that you will be sending a request. Always double-check that the email address is inputted correctly.

You will not be able to see the information provided by your reference, but you will be able to see when it has been completed. **It is your responsibility to talk to your references and remind them of the August 31st deadline. If your letter of recommendation is not submitted by the August 31st deadline your application will be deemed incomplete.** Please remember to thank

them for helping with your application!

WILL MY INFORMATION BE KEPT PRIVATE?

The OCCF will only gather and store information reasonably necessary to make award determinations, to communicate with educational institutions regarding enrollment, check processing, and related matters, or to otherwise comply with laws regarding use and storage of educational information. These laws include but are not limited to: Indiana Code §§ 20-3-7-3(e), Indiana Code §§ 21-12-12-1, and the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g. Select information will only be seen by the Lilly Endowment Scholarship Committee and Foundation program staff as appropriate. Basic information about the scholarship winners and finalists (name, school, intended course of study) may be shared with news outlets or on social media for publicity purposes.

ARE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS GUARANTEED FOUR YEARS OF SUPPORT?

The LECSP is designed as an automatically renewable four-year scholarship. However, annual updates are required to stay “in good standing” to continue receiving scholarship funds. Violations of the Character and Citizenship criteria at any time, including violations occurring on dates up to and including the date the funds are transferred to the educational institution, may result in investigation and temporary withholding of funds, as well as possible subsequent withdrawal or termination of the award.

Character and Citizenship Criteria: These criteria require scholarship recipients to be of upstanding character and to display good citizenship. This includes, but is not limited to: accountability (honoring commitments, being responsible for decisions, accepting consequences, and admitting mistakes), showing a drive for excellence (having a good work ethic, getting results, showing continuous improvement, putting in time above basic requirements, and being involved in the community), respect (showing good judgment and not showing inappropriate behavior, treating others fairly, listening to others and accepting their input, living up to promises made to others, maintaining self-control, and exhibiting consideration for others), and integrity (honesty, trustworthiness, caring for others, being ethical).

WHAT OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

The Owen County Community Foundation (OCCF) offers 70+ unique scholarships with varying requirements and benefits. This application will open in the Fall with a deadline of January 2025.

Additionally, the Morgan L. Drescher Family Scholarship is awarded to the first alternate applicant for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. This \$40,000 is paid out over four years and may be used at an in-state or out-of-state institution.

I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS. WHO SHOULD I TALK TO?

Please direct questions to the Owen County Community Foundation at 812-829-1725 or email Director of Programs & Communications, Karah Bobeck, at karah@owencountycf.org. Please note that questions must come **directly from the student**.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

➔ WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV

File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid online

➔ WWW.INDIANACOLLEGE COSTS.ORG

College Costs Estimator tool for any college in Indiana

➔ WWW.FINAID.ORG

Lots of information, glossary of terms, scholarship search and more links

➔ WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG

Provides information on various aspects of college preparation

➔ WWW.LEARNMOREINDIANA.ORG

Offers information on Indiana colleges and universities, scholarship opportunities, etc.

➔ WWW.ICINDIANA.ORG

Link to all 31 private colleges in Indiana with tuition and enrollment information

➔ WWW.COLLEGEPOSSIBLE.ORG

Great resource guide for parents and students

➔ WWW.FASTWEB.COM

One of the largest free scholarship searches

➔ WWW.COLLEGENET.COM

Large database of free scholarship searches

➔ WWW.WIREDSCHOLAR.COM

Access to College Aid Sources for Higher Education, one of the oldest scholarship databases

➔ WWW.COLLEGEVIEW.COM

Offers an extensive financial aid search

➔ WWW.STUDENTAID.ED.GOV

Federal information on scholarships/grants, loans, state financial aid, work-study, and military funding