# First Tech Scholarship Program
## 2027 Official Rules

## Overview

Eligible First Tech | DCU members will have the opportunity to apply for one of fifteen $10,000 scholarships. Awards will support outstanding students pursuing STEM-related fields of study and the skilled trades.

This investment in youth supports student achievement by helping to alleviate financial barriers that can impede educational success. Through this scholarship program, students are empowered to pursue their academic and career goals, while strengthening the long-term vitality and innovation of the communities they serve.

Applications open on **December 1, 2026**, for graduating high school seniors and currently enrolled undergraduate students who plan to attend a state- or nationally accredited college, university, or trade school in **Fall 2027**. Eligible students are encouraged to apply. For additional eligibility details or to access the application please visit our website.

Awards will be determined based on academic achievement, original essay responses, honors and achievements, extracurricular activities, leadership experience, and community involvement. Applications will be reviewed by an impartial panel of college educators, nonprofit partners, and business professionals with relevant experience.

## Eligibility Requirements

**Applicants must…**

- Be a graduating high school senior or a currently enrolled undergraduate or trade-school student pursuing an eligible STEM-related degree, credential, or skilled trade certification.
    - Be 24 years of age or younger as of the application deadline.
- Be a First Tech | DCU member in good standing by the application deadline.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 or a qualifying GED or HSE score.
- Plan to pursue an undergraduate degree in a STEM-focused major or an eligible skilled trade.
- Plan to enroll, or already be enrolled, as a full-time student at a state- or nationally accredited institution for the upcoming academic year.
- Not have previously received a First Tech | DCU member scholarship through this program.

**Use of Artificial Intelligence**

Applicants must submit work that is their own. The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to create, write, substantially revise, or generate any portion of an application, essay, or other required response is prohibited. Applications found to contain AI-generated content may be disqualified from consideration.

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### Evaluation Criteria

**Scholarship applications are evaluated using the following criteria:**

- **Academic Achievement**: Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, a GED score of 164–200, or a qualifying HSE score of 14–20. An unofficial transcript covering the previous and current academic years is required.
- **Essay Responses:** Applicants must submit two original essays, each no longer than 300 words.
- **Leadership and Community Involvement:** Consideration will be given to awards, honors, extracurricular activities, leadership experience, and community service demonstrating commitment, initiative, and positive community involvement.

### Schedule

- **Application Opens:** Tuesday, December 1, 2026
- **Application Deadline**: All applications and required supporting materials must be submitted through the scholarship portal by Sunday, January 31, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. ET / 8:59 p.m. PT.
- **Late Submissions**: To ensure fairness to all applicants, late applications and supporting materials will not be accepted.
- **Applicant Notifications**: All applicants will be notified of their application status via email by late April 2027.
- **Enrollment Confirmation Deadline**: Friday, May 7, 2027
- **Award Distribution**: Scholarship awards will be distributed in July 2027.
- **Check-Processing Deadline**: Educational institutions must process scholarship award checks by Friday, October 1, 2027.

### Publicity & Recognition

Scholarship recipients authorize First Tech | DCU to publish their name, photograph, educational institution, field of study, and a recipient-provided statement in scholarship-related communications and promotional materials, including websites, newsletters, and news releases, at First Tech | DCU's discretion.

### Questions

For additional information, please review our FAQs.

**First Tech | DCU employees and volunteers, including those of its subsidiaries and affiliates, are ineligible for the Member Scholarship Program. Separate eligibility requirements apply to children of employees and children under an employee's legal guardianship through the Employee Children's Scholarship Program.*