



The Richard H. and Ann M. Gerken Scholarship 2026-2027 Guidelines

Scholarship Information

The Richard H. and Ann M. Gerken Scholarship was established at the Community Foundation in 2013. The purpose of the Richard H. and Ann M. Gerken Scholarship Program is to assist qualified students in pursuit of a post-secondary education who demonstrate a desire to complete a degree in nursing or medicine.

Eligibility Criteria

Graduating senior from a Hilton Head Island high school who is a resident of Hilton Head Island, demonstrating financial need, who is taking a full-time academic program leading to a degree in nursing or medicine. Applicant must demonstrate evidence of outstanding academic achievement and commitment to nursing and/or medicine. *Preference will be given to applicants who are taking courses leading to a specialization in the diseases of the mind.* Consideration may also be given to non-Hilton Head Island residents who legally commit to relocate to Hilton Head Island and commence a professional practice on Hilton Head Island upon the completion of their education.

Application Requirements

1. Complete an [online scholarship application](#).
2. Typed essay (500-1500 words) explaining how this scholarship will assist applicant in achieving academic and career goals entered into the online application.
3. An official copy of the applicant's most recent transcript(s) showing grades for at least two years, **uploaded into the online application via 3rd party email from a school counselor or teacher.**
4. Proof of enrollment in the field of study referenced above uploaded into the online application.
5. One letter of reference from an adult, non-family member **uploaded into the online application, via 3rd party email, directly from the reference.**
6. Selected finalists may be asked to attend a personal interview with the Richard H. and Ann M. Gerken Scholarship Advisory Committee.

Scholarship Type	Undergraduate/Post-Secondary	How to Apply	Click Here
Award	Varied, may have multiple recipients	Deadline	March 2, 2026

Selection of Recipients

The Scholarship Advisory Committee shall select recipients (subject to approval by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry Board of Directors). Scholarship funds will be awarded to cover educational costs for: tuition/fees, room and board, and books. Specific costs to be covered will be at the discretion of the Scholarship Advisory Committee. Scholarships are awarded without regard to race, sex, religion, age, or national origin.

Announcement of Scholarship Awards

The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry will send an official award letter and related information to each recipient. A public announcement of scholarship recipients may be arranged by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. Recipients may be further recognized through Awards Day programs at their schools.

Distribution of Scholarship Funds

The Community Foundation will advise all scholarship recipients of the distribution method of scholarship awards and review the students' responsibilities to the Scholarship Program they have been selected for. These responsibilities may include sending transcripts at the end of the year for renewable scholarships, and providing notification of all address changes or changes in student status or enrollment. In accordance with the Community Foundation's policy, scholarship funds will be paid in the form of a check made payable to the college/school of the scholarship recipient. Checks will be mailed to the college/school. Notification of payment will be sent to the scholarship recipient.