



Stephen Nicholas Memorial Scholarship 2026-2027 Guidelines

Scholarship Information

The Stephen Nicholas Smith Memorial Scholarship was established in loving memory of Stephen Nicholas Smith by his family and friends. The scholarship is supported by the Stephen Nicholas Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund and will provide post-secondary scholarship opportunities for qualified high school seniors or recent graduates.

The scholarship will focus on providing support for applicants with a high degree of demonstrated financial need who are pursuing a post-secondary education and have been accepted or currently attending any technical college within the South Carolina Technical College system

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are those who meet the following application requirements:

1. Applicant must be a senior graduating from a high school in Hampton, Barnwell or Colleton counties in South Carolina, or a recent high school graduate from those counties currently enrolled in a technical college program within the South Carolina Technical College system.
2. Applicant must show evidence of a demonstrated strong financial need.
3. Applicant must show evidence of acceptance and plans to attend a college within the South Carolina Technical College System, with plans to pursue a degree or certificate program.
4. Applicant must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent on an alternate scale.

Application Requirements

1. A completed [online scholarship application](#).
2. This scholarship considers financial need in addition to other criteria, be certain to fill out the online application questions pertaining to financial need.
3. A typed essay (approximately 500 words) explaining the applicant's career plans and how this scholarship will assist the applicant in achieving these career goals.
4. 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.**
5. Two letters of recommendation completed by adult non-family members, sent via third party email from the references.
6. A copy of the Student Aid Report from the FAFSA - showing Expected Family Contribution as additional information for further consideration by the Stephen Nicholas Smith Scholarship Advisory Committee. Selected finalists may be asked to participate in a phone or personal interview with the Stephen Nicholas Smith Memorial 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.