



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD!

We're excited to support your education through a scholarship awarded from funds held at the Oceana Community Foundation.

### HOW DO I CLAIM MY SCHOLARSHIP?

To receive your scholarship, you must complete the Acceptance & Agreement Form online: [goapply2.akoyago.com/OCEANA/](https://goapply2.akoyago.com/OCEANA/)

To help ensure your school receives funds in time for fall, please submit your form by June 10.



ACCEPT AWARDS HERE!



### WHEN AND HOW ARE FUNDS SENT?

After you complete the acceptance requirements, scholarship funds are typically sent **directly to your college, university, or training program in July** for the 2026–27 academic year.

Awards are usually split evenly between **fall and winter/spring**, but we can sometimes adjust timing if your program doesn't follow a traditional semester schedule (for example, earlier, later, or all at once).

Please **accept your scholarship first**, then contact us if you need to discuss a different schedule—we'll help you to determine the best use of your awards.

### HOW CAN I USE MY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS?

Scholarships may be used for qualified educational expenses included in your cost of attendance, such as:

- Tuition and fees
- Books and supplies
- Required equipment

If you are pursuing a **skilled trades, apprenticeship, or other hands-on training program**, funds may also be used for tools, equipment, uniforms, or certification and licensing costs required for your program.

If you have expenses outside of a traditional college billing structure, please contact us after accepting your award—we can often work with you to support your specific needs.

### WHAT IF I MISS THE JUNE 10 DEADLINE?

You can still submit your acceptance form after June 10. However, your school may not receive funds before your first payment due date for the fall semester.

If you have not accepted or requested a deferral by October 1, 2026, we reserve the right to cancel all awards.

MORE ON THE BACK 

### NEED HELP?

HANNAH NAPLES PROGRAM OFFICER



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(231)869-3377



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PO Box 902, 388 S. Hancock St, Pentwater, MI 49449



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### **CAN I DEFER MY SCHOLARSHIP?**

If you plan to delay your education (for example, starting in the spring or taking a gap year), contact us as soon as possible.

To keep your scholarship:

- You must **accept or request a deferral by October 1** of the award year
- If deferred, you must **follow up by April 1 of the following year**

*If we do not hear from you by these deadlines, your scholarship may be canceled.*

### **WHAT IF MY PLANS OR INFORMATION CHANGE?**

Please keep us informed so we can support you and ensure your funds are sent correctly.

Let us know if you:

- Transfer schools
- Withdraw or change enrollment status
- Change your program type (college, trade, apprenticeship, etc.)
- Update your email, phone number, or mailing address

### **IS MY SCHOLARSHIP RENEWABLE?**

Check your award letter—if your scholarship is renewable, it will be listed by year with your awards.

To renew:

- You must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA and be enrolled as a full-time student.
  - If your GPA falls below 2.5 or you're not planning to enroll full-time, don't panic—please contact us. Exceptions or adjustments may be possible based on your individual circumstances and are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- You will receive a Renewal Form by email in December
- **Renewal forms are due by February 1 each year**

### **ARE THERE TAX IMPLICATIONS?**

If the amount of your award exceeds the tuition and fees required to enroll, such as if used for books, supplies and equipment that are required for the courses, may be considered taxable income.

### **NEED HELP? JUST ASK!**

If you have questions about accepting your award, your school's billing timeline, or eligible expenses, contact Hannah Naples, [hannah@oceanafoundation.org](mailto:hannah@oceanafoundation.org), (231)869-3377

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