



2015 Scholarship Application Guide

Thank you for your interest in applying for Equity Foundation scholarships. This guide includes information on eligibility requirements, how to properly fill out and submit your application, and frequently asked questions. We highly recommend that you review this guide prior to completing your application.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility Requirements for All Scholarships

The following requirements apply to all of Equity Foundation's scholarships, with the exception of the ADX Scholarship and the Bill & Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship, which have separate applications. *Note that some scholarships have stricter requirements than what is listed below.*

- Be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer (LGBTQ), the child of LGBTQ parent(s), or an ally actively involved in advancing LGBTQ equality
- Be enrolled or intending to enroll for the 2015-2016 school year in an accredited educational program beyond the secondary level
- Resident of Oregon or SW Washington
- In need of financial assistance to complete degree program
- Demonstrated capability to successfully complete degree program
- Not be an employee or Board member of Equity Foundation, an immediate relative of the scholarship fund founders or the Scholarship Review Committee

Applications for all scholarships are due

June 19, 2015

unless otherwise indicated in the eligibility requirements

Eligibility Requirements by Scholarship

David M. Crawford Memorial Scholarship

The David M. Crawford Memorial Scholarship was created in 2012 in memory of David M. Crawford by Mr. Crawford's partner Scott Mason. Mr. Crawford was the former Treasurer of Equity Foundation and alum of Portland State University.

Residency: Oregon

Identity: LGBTQ or an ally who is actively involved in an LGBTQ rights organization

Educational Institution: Pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree at Portland State University

Area of study: No requirement

Gregori Jakovina Endowed Scholarships

The Gregori Jakovina Scholarship Fund was founded in May 2007 by Gregori Jakovina and Larry McDonald to encourage and facilitate post-secondary education in the arts for people who are LGBTQ. Gregori Jakovina Endowed Scholarships Fund applicants may include mid-career adults who are returning to school to pursue a new career in the arts, as well as young adults who have recently completed high school or their G.E.D. and are pursuing their education beyond the secondary level.

Gregori Jakovina Scholarship

Residency: Oregon or Clark County, Washington

Identity: LGBTQ or child of LGBTQ parent(s)

Area of study: Arts, preference given to visual arts such as painting, sculpture, and photography

Educational Institution: Non-profit institution

Larry McDonald Scholarship

Residency: Oregon or Clark County, Washington

Identity: LGBTQ mid-life adult

Area of study: Arts and/or humanities, which includes ancient and modern languages, literature, history, philosophy, religion, fine arts, and visual and performing arts such as music and theatre

Educational Institution: Non-profit institution

Jessica Dolin Memorial Scholarship

Leigh and Leslie Dolin have established the Jessica Dolin Memorial Scholarship, in memory of their daughter, who died May 14, 2013.

“In her words and actions, Jessica always advocated for the acceptance and inclusion of gender and sexual minorities. She also recognized the value of higher education, and worked hard for and was proud of her college degree. We can’t think of a better way to honor her memory than the establishment of this scholarship.” – Leigh Dolin

Residency: Oregon or Clark County, WA

Identity: LGBTQ or an ally who is actively involved in an LGBTQ rights organization

Educational Institution: Pursuing a bachelor’s or master’s degree

Area of study: No requirement

Jim McBroom and John H. Weston Scholarship

The Jim McBroom and John H. Weston Scholarship was created in 2010 through a bequest from Jim McBroom. The scholarship is funded by the Jim McBroom and John H. Weston Charitable Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.

Residency: Oregon

Identity: LGBTQ

Area of study: Preferably studying fine arts and/or humanities

Educational Institution: Bachelor’s degree or master’s degree at an accredited four year college or university

Additional requirement: Must not be an employee or board member of the Oregon Community Foundation

Portland General Electric Scholarship

The Portland General Electric (PGE) Scholarship will offer a two-thousand dollar scholarship to one student who is LGBTQ or is the child of LGBTQ parents, who resides in PGE’s service area, and needs financial assistance to attain their post-secondary educational goals.

Residency: Within PGE service area in Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, or Yamhill counties. [Click here](#) for information on PGE’s service area.

Identity: LGBTQ or child of LGBTQ parent(s)

Area of study: Preferably majoring in mathematics, engineering, and related sciences, or business, economics, finance, and other disciplines that align with PGE's business focus.

Educational Institution: No requirement

Additional requirement: Preference given to first generation students.

Additional material required: Applicants must submit proof of residency, preferably a utility bill

Portland Latino Gay Pride Scholarship

The Portland Latino Gay Pride (PLGP) Scholarship, established in 2012 by the Board of Directors, offers scholarships to students who are LGBTQ, or are the children of LGBTQ parents, who reside in Oregon or Clark County, Washington, and need financial assistance to attain their post-secondary educational goals. A one-thousand dollar scholarship will be awarded to one deserving student.

Residency: Oregon or Clark County, WA

Identity: LGBTQ or child of LGBTQ parent(s), preference given to Latino/a candidates or candidates that demonstrate direct involvement with the Latino/a LGBTQ community

Area of study: No requirement

Educational Institution: College, university, trade or vocational school, or art school

Additional requirement: Must not be an employee or board member of Portland Latino Gay Pride

Pride of the Rose Scholarship, Deadline: July 31, 2015

The Pride of the Rose Scholarship, founded in 1979 by Rose Emperor V Frank Schreckenberger and Rose Empress XXI Allison Grey, now administered through Equity Foundation, is available to members of the LGBTQ community and their children who reside in Portland Quad-County area or Clark County, Washington

Residency: Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington Columbia or Yamhill County or Clark County, Washington

Identity: LGBTQ or child of LGBTQ parent(s)

Area of study: No requirement

Educational Institution: College, university, trade or vocational school, or art school

FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

Scholarship Selection

Check all of the scholarships for which you would like to be considered. Make sure to consult the eligibility requirements for individual scholarships to ensure that you are eligible for the scholarships you select. If you select a scholarship for which you are ineligible, your application will not be considered for that scholarship.

Personal Information

Preferred Pronouns: If you wish, you may provide us with your preferred pronouns, such as he/she, she/her, they/them, ze/zir, your name, etc. to ensure that our staff and volunteers use the correct pronouns.

Address: Provide us with an address where you can reliably receive mail from the time you apply until the start of the 2015-2016 school year. If your address changes during the application process, you can contact us to update your address.

Contact Information: Provide us with an email and phone number where we can contact you, including a number where you are comfortable with us leaving a voicemail and referring to Equity Foundation to anyone who answers. If you are concerned about confidentiality, please let us know.

Demographic Information: Information regarding your race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender/gender identity are optional. Your responses help us evaluate our success in recruiting an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the LGBTQ and allied community.

Eligibility Criteria

This checklist will help us determine your eligibility for the scholarships you have selected. Please check all criteria that apply to you, even if it is irrelevant to the specific scholarships you have selected.

Education

Provide us with information regarding your enrollment status for your post-secondary education. If you are not yet enrolled in a post-secondary educational program, please provide us with up to three of your top choices for where you intend to enroll for the 2015-2016 school year.

Activities and volunteer experience: If you are applying for a scholarship with a specific area of focus or special requirement, such as the arts or involvement with the Latino/a LGBT community, make sure to include any relevant experience.

Financial Need Information

Anticipated Income and Expenses: Think of your anticipated income and anticipated expenses as a budget for your 2015-2016 school year. Your total income and total expenses should be approximately the same number. Our reviewers want to see how you plan to pay for your education.

Anticipated Financial Need: Your anticipated financial need is the amount of funding you would need to receive to cover your costs for the 2015-2016 school year.

Space is provided for you to share any additional information that will help our reviewers understand your financial need. This is optional, but can be helpful if you have unique financial circumstances and/or wish to provide an explanation of your income and expenses.

Essays

All of the essay questions are required. If you exceed the limit of characters on any of the questions, you may attach additional sheets to your application.

Applicant Signature

By providing your written or electronic signature, you are stating that you have read and understood the criteria of eligibility and the method of selection regarding Equity Foundation's scholarship funds.

You may let us know if you do or do not give us permission to use your name, photograph, and/or application in any Equity Foundation media or materials. We use applicant materials to advertise and promote the scholarship and raise additional funds.

Additional Materials

Letters of Recommendation: Your recommenders should be able to address your academic history and potential, community involvement and leadership, and financial need. We recommend reviewers such as teachers, counselors, coaches, volunteer counselors, and employers. Your recommendations should not be written by family members.

Transcript: You do not need to submit an official transcript. You can request an official or unofficial transcript from the registrar or print a copy of your transcript from an online portal. If you have attended more than one school, submit the transcript for your current or most recent school. You may submit additional transcripts if you wish.

Other Materials: You may submit any additional materials you deem relevant to your academic pursuits and experience, such as a resume, portfolio, writing sample, etc. You are not required to submit any additional materials beyond your letters of recommendation and transcript, with the exception of the PGE Scholarship which requires proof of residency, preferably a utility bill.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Applications may be submitted any of the following ways:

1. Emailed to info@equityfoundation.org
2. Mailed to Equity Foundation at P.O. Box 5696, Portland, OR 97228 and postmarked by the deadline.
3. Hand delivered or sent by courier to Equity Foundation's office at 221 NW 2nd Ave. Suite 208, Portland, OR 97209 during the hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

Your additional materials (i.e. transcripts, letters of recommendations, etc.) may be sent separately from the application, but must be received or postmarked by the deadline.

Late applications will not be considered.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Application Process

When is the application due?

Applications for all scholarships, excluding the Bill & Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship, the ADX Make it Fund Scholarship, and the Pride of the Rose Scholarship, are due **June 19, 2015**. The Pride of the Rose Scholarship is due July 31, 2015.

I don't see the Bill & Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship or the ADX Scholarship. How do I apply for those scholarships?

Those scholarship have a separate application process. The deadline for the Bill & Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship has passed for the 2014-2015 school year. We are not yet accepting applications for the ADX Scholarship. Visit www.equityfoundation.org/scholarships for more information.

How will I know if you've received my application?

You will receive an email or phone call from Equity Foundation confirming that we have received your application.

How many of your scholarships can I apply for?

You can apply for all of the scholarships for which you are eligible.

Can I receive more than one scholarship?

Yes. Separate committees review the applications for each fund and select recipients. There is no limit on the number of scholarships or the amount of scholarship funding you can receive.

If I am selected to receive a scholarship, how much will I be awarded?

The amount varies. The average award for the 2014-2015 school year was about \$2,500. The most a single student received was \$10,500.

What are my chances of receiving a scholarship?

In 2014, just under half of the individuals who applied received an award.

When will I find out if I've received a scholarship?

For scholarships due in June, we will notify winners in July and August.

Is my application information confidential?

Yes. Only Equity Foundation staff and the committee of reviewers will see your application. All of our staff and reviewers are required to sign confidentiality agreements. Your application materials will only be shared if you indicate on your application form that we have your permission to use your name and application in promoting our scholarship program.

What makes a strong applicant?

Our reviewers select recipients who 1) are in need of financial assistance to complete their program; 2) demonstrate capability to successfully complete a degree program; and 3) demonstrate leadership within the LGBTQ community.

What do you mean by leadership?

Leadership is demonstrated by involvement in an organization or project, positive community impact, and/or future plans to be involved in and advance LGBTQ issues in your chosen career.

Eligibility

What do you mean by residency?

To be considered a resident, you must have lived within Oregon or SW Washington for at least one year prior to submitting your application. If you're currently attending school out of state, you are still eligible as long as you lived in Oregon or SW Washington for at least a year immediately prior to your current post-secondary education.

Remember to check the residency requirements for specific scholarship funds.

What kinds of degree programs are eligible?

Any accredited educational program beyond the secondary level, including community college, college, university, technical and vocational school, and art school. Your program must have an established non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

What if I have a GED instead of a high school diploma?

You are eligible to apply if you hold a high school diploma or a GED.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen?

No, you do not have to be a U.S. citizen to apply. We do not require a social security number or any other documentation of citizenship.

Can I apply if I want to go to a school outside of Oregon or the United States?

Yes, as long as you meet other eligibility requirements of the scholarship funds, you may attend school outside of Oregon or the United States.

Is there an age requirement?

With the exception of the Larry McDonald Scholarship Fund, there is no age requirement. There is no specific age range for the Larry McDonald Scholarship Fund – the requirement is that you identify as a mid-life adult.

What does it mean if a requirement is preferred?

It indicates that the funder of the scholarship would prefer that recipients meet a certain eligibility criteria, but it is not required. You do not need to meet preferred criteria to be eligible for a scholarship.

If I've applied before, can I apply again? What if I've received an Equity scholarship in the past?

Yes, you can apply again, even if you have previously received an Equity Foundation scholarship. There are no limitations on how many times or how often you can apply.

Selection and Distribution of Awards

How are scholarship recipients selected?

A scholarship committee composed of members designated by Equity Foundation and/or the founders of the scholarship fund will review the applications and select recipients.

Will I need to interview with the committee?

Interviews are not typically part of our selection process. If the committee deems it necessary, personal individuals can be arranged – though it is rare.

How can my scholarship award be used?

We send your scholarship funding directly to your school and ask your school to apply the funds to your tuition and fees for that school year. We do not send funding directly to award recipients.

How long can I use the scholarship money?

We ask your school to apply the funds for the 2015-2016 school year.

What if I need to delay my schooling or must leave school?

If you delay your schooling or need to leave school, we evaluate on a case by case basis how to proceed with your scholarship funds.

What if I'm not accepted to a school yet or haven't decided where to attend?

We will hold your scholarship funding until to notify us of your official enrollment in an educational program. If you select a program that does not meet our eligibility requirements or do not end up enrolling for the 2015-2016 school year, you cannot receive funding.

What if I have more questions?

Visit our website at www.equityfoundation.org/scholarships.

Contact Dani Bernstein, Programs and Office Administrator, at (503) 231-5759 x522 or danib@equityfoundation.org.