



2026-27 ACADEMIC YEAR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDE

The Kendrick Foundation offers sizeable scholarships for students pursuing certain careers in health-related fields. There are three separate applications for this scholarship. The applications are for the following types of applicants: first-time (you have never *received* this scholarship), returning scholar (you are a current or former Kendrick Foundation scholar and have not reached the four-year maximum award), and non-traditional (you have been out of school, working, and would like to go back to pursue a higher degree in a health-related field). The Kendrick Foundation scholarship application is available online and is due by **4 p.m. (EST) on Monday, January 5, 2026**. Apply here:

First-time Applicant: <https://smr.to/p105660>

Returning Scholar: <https://smr.to/p105662>

Non-traditional Applicant: <https://smr.to/p105661>

We know it can be stressful to apply for scholarships and plan for the future but take a deep breath: we're here for you! This is the one-stop shop for information on every scholarship we offer. We've got helpful tips, resources, and answers to your questions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2026-27 PROGRAM INFORMATION

Kendrick Foundation Scholarship Requirements	PAGE 3
--	--------

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Application Information	PAGE 4
How can I apply?	
Which application should I use?	
What are you looking for in applications?	
Application Components	PAGE 5
Can I apply for the scholarship if I don't know what school or program I want to attend yet?	
I have taken the SAT/ACT multiple times: what score should I include?	
How should I write the essay(s)?	
General Information	PAGE 6
Who should I ask to complete my reference form(s)?	
Will my information be kept private?	
Are scholarships automatically renewable?	
What does the Kendrick Foundation scholarship cover?	

HELPFUL WEBSITES

EXAMPLE ESSAY

If you cannot find answers to your questions here, please contact Nikki Jo McCrady, Kendrick Foundation Program Manager, at njmccrady@kendrickfoundation.org or 317-831-1232.

Please note that questions must come directly from the student.

2026-27 PROGRAM INFORMATION

Apply by 4 p.m. (EST) on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Scholars will be notified by May 29, 2026.

Multiple awards of up to \$17,500.

****Please note scholarship award amounts are subject to change.****

KENDRICK FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Kendrick Foundation Scholarship:
 - For Morgan County residents pursuing one of the following degrees (but not limited to), with an intention to return to Morgan County to work in a health-related field:
 - Chiropractic Medicine: DC
 - Dental Hygiene: AAS, BS
 - Dentistry: DDS, DMD
 - Dietetics: Nutrition/Dietetics BS, Nutrition/Dietetics MS
 - Medicine: MD, DO
 - Nursing: ADN, BSN, MSN, NP, APN
 - Occupational Therapy: MOT, MS, MA, Doctorate
 - Optometry: OD.s
 - Pharmacy: PharmD
 - Physical Therapy: DPT, PTA
 - Physician Assistant: PA
 - Psychology/Counseling: MA, MS, PhD, PsyD, MHC, MFT, AC/CAC
 - Public Health: MPH
 - Radiological Technology: Radiological Science BS
 - Respiratory Therapy: AAS, Respiratory Care BS, Health Sciences Respiratory Care MS
 - Social Work: MSW, CSW, DSW
 - Speech Language Pathology: MS, MA, Doctorate
 - Surgical Technology: AAS
 - High school applicants with a direct admit letter or who have beginning core academic work in their related field (other than standard liberal arts courses) will be considered; however, those pursuing professional degrees will be considered first.
 - All Kendrick Foundation scholars will be required to volunteer 20 hours during the 2026-27 academic year. Additional information will be provided to 2026-27 scholarship recipients.

FAQS

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Our easy-to-use online application platform is Smarter Select. You'll be able to see all the application criteria and create an individualized account. After creating an account, you can save information to your application and see any incomplete sections. Even if you submit the application early, you'll be able to edit the application up to the deadline. You should receive automated emails from the system confirming application creation and submission: you may need to check your spam folder.

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH APPLICATION TO USE?

We have created three separate applications for this scholarship. Please see the descriptions for each application below to determine which one you should fill out and submit.

First-time Applicants: This application is for applicants who have never *received* the Kendrick Foundation scholarship but plan to obtain a degree in a health-related field.

Returning Scholar: This application is intended for individuals who have previously been awarded a Kendrick Foundation scholarship and wish to be considered for renewal. Please note that eligibility for scholarship funding is limited to a maximum of four academic years.

Non-traditional Applicants: This application is for applicants who have been out of school and in the workforce, who want to go back to school and obtain a higher degree in a health-related field.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN APPLICATIONS?

We assess the following application criteria. Other information is collected for record-keeping, communication, or due diligence purposes.

- Academic Performance: Factors such as GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT scores (if available), rigor of courses, and academic honors will be used.
- Extracurricular Involvement: Evaluators often assess the quality and quantity of extracurricular, volunteer/community service, and/or work activities. Leadership positions, a longstanding commitment to an organization or an activity, well-rounded involvement, and substantial volunteer/community service are all good to have.
- Essay: First-time applicants and returning scholars will be required to write one essay and non-traditional applicants will be required to write two. A strong essay will clearly explain personal and professional goals, include specific examples of involvement, and will use proper spelling/grammar/punctuation. Outline, proofread, and proofread again!
- Reference: No reference will be required for returning scholars. First-time applicants will be required to provide one reference, and non-traditional applicants will be required to provide two. The reference form(s) can be completed by any non-family community leader, employer, educator, etc. Be sure to ask your reference writer(s) well in advance of the deadline.

CAN I APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT SCHOOL OR PROGRAM I WANT TO ATTEND YET?

Yes! We know that plans change (or may not even be formulated yet). That's okay. Just give us an idea of what you're thinking about pursuing at this point and explain what you're looking for in a future college or career.

I HAVE TAKEN THE SAT/ACT MULTIPLE TIMES: WHAT SCORE SHOULD I INCLUDE?

There is only space to put one test score: list your highest overall score. This should be a composite score. Don't break it down into categories (like math, science, English).

HOW SHOULD I WRITE THE ESSAY(S)?

Demonstrate why you deserve a scholarship. You could consider this like a cover letter for a job application: tell us who you are, what you want to do in the future, what past experiences you've had, and why you would represent Morgan County well. You have a maximum of 250 words, but you don't have to use them all: remember that the Scholarship Committee is reading LOTS of these essays. Keep it interesting but get to the point. Some tips:

- It is highly recommended that applicants submit an original essay written entirely in their own words. The use of artificial intelligence tools, plagiarism, or content generated by others is discouraged. Essays should reflect your personal experiences, perspectives, and voice.
- Smarter Select does not have a comprehensive spelling and grammar checking feature, so you may want to compose your essay(s) in Word or another word processing program before pasting into the essay field(s).
- Outline your thoughts before you start writing: this will help keep your essay clear and concise. Don't forget transitions!
- Consider breaking the essay into paragraphs or sections, for example:
 - First, you could present your skills, achievements, or strengths. Tell us about who you are. Use verbs and concrete results. For example, if you helped raise money for a charity event, tell us exactly how much.
 - Then, explain why you are applying for the scholarship. What do you want to study, what post-secondary institution do you want to attend, and how will that translate to your future career?
 - Third, explain why you've chosen this path. What specific experiences helped you identify or develop your passion? Be sure to explain how this scholarship would help you achieve your goals. Why should the scholarship be "invested" in you?
 - Finally, be sure to include your immediate and long-term goals following completion of your chosen degree in a health-related field and how you plan to use your skills to influence today's society, specifically in Morgan County.
- The order is completely up to you but be sure to answer each part of the prompt. Specific examples are better than generic statements. *Show* the committee what you're talking about, don't just *tell* them.
- There is no required citation style for the essay. However, you should be consistent throughout. Proper grammar, correct spelling, and accurate punctuation are a must. Talk to your English teacher, guidance counselor, or parent about proofreading your essay. They may catch an error that you didn't see.
- First-time applicants and returning scholars will be required to write one essay and non-traditional applicants will be required to write two.
- Check out our website listing on Page 8 for more help.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO COMPLETE MY REFERENCE FORM(S)?

No reference will be required for returning scholars. First-time applicants will be required to provide one reference, and non-traditional applicants will be required to provide two. This can be a teacher, employer, coach, pastor, scout leader, or any other educator or community leader who can provide feedback on your personal character, work ethic, and potential to succeed in college. This cannot come from someone related to you. Once you put your reference writer's information into the application, it will automatically send them a link to complete the reference online.

You should ask your reference writer(s) right away. Many educators and community leaders are asked to complete multiple references, so the earlier you ask, the better chance you have that they will agree and be able to complete the form on time. You should provide them with any information they may need to complete an accurate recommendation (you may want to remind them of your relevant coursework, community/work involvement, or future aspirations).

You will not be able to see the information provided by your reference(s), but you will be able to see when they are completed. It is your responsibility to talk to your reference(s) and remind them of the January 5, 2026 deadline. Remember to thank them for helping with your application!

WILL MY INFORMATION BE KEPT PRIVATE?

The Kendrick Foundation will only gather and store information reasonably necessary to make award determinations, to communicate with educational institutions regarding enrollment, for check processing and related matters, or to otherwise comply with laws regarding use and storage of educational information. We will follow all applicable state and federal laws and regulations on education privacy laws. Select information will only be seen by the Board of Directors, Scholarship Committee, and program staff as appropriate. Basic information about the scholarship winners and finalists (name, school, and intended field of study) may be shared with news outlets and/or on social media for promotional purposes.

ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AUTOMATICALLY RENEWABLE?

No. Each scholarship is a one-time award paid directly to your higher education institution, though you can re-apply for this scholarship each year. Violations of the Character and Citizenship criteria at any time, including violations occurring on dates up to and including the date the funds are paid to the educational institution, may result in investigation and temporary withholding of funds, as well as possible subsequent withdrawal or termination of the award.

Character and Citizenship Criteria: These criteria require scholarship recipients to be of upstanding character and to display good citizenship. This includes, but is not limited to: accountability (honoring commitments, being responsible for decisions, accepting consequences, and admitting mistakes), showing a drive for excellence (having a good work ethic, getting results, showing continuous improvement, putting in time above basic requirements, and being involved in the community), respect (showing good judgment and not showing inappropriate behavior, treating others fairly, listening to others and accepting their input, living up to promises made to others, maintaining self-control, and exhibiting consideration for others), and integrity (honesty, trustworthiness, caring for others, and being ethical).

WHAT DOES THE KENDRICK FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP COVER?

The Kendrick Foundation scholarship typically covers tuition and required academic fees. Scholars must submit documentation from their academic institution showing these expenses when requesting payment. Scholarship funds may also cover required program fees, lab fees, book costs, and similar charges listed on the tuition statement, subject to approval. The scholarship does not cover room, board, parking, transportation, or other personal expenses.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

➡ [STUDENTAID.GOV](https://studentaid.gov)

File the free application for federal student aid online

➡ [FINAID.ORG](https://finaid.org)

Lots of information, glossary of terms, scholarship search, and more links

➡ [COLLEGEBOARD.ORG](https://collegeboard.org)

Provides information on various aspects of college preparation

➡ [LEARNMOREINDIANA.ORG](https://learnmoreindiana.org)

Offers information on Indiana colleges and universities, scholarship opportunities, etc.

➡ [ICINDIANA.ORG](https://icindiana.org)

Link to 29 private, non-profit colleges and universities in Indiana with tuition and enrollment information

➡ [FASTWEB.COM](https://fastweb.com)

One of the largest free scholarship searches

➡ [SALLIEMAE.COM](https://salliemae.com)

Learn about student loan options and more

➡ [CFMCONLINE.ORG](https://cfmconline.org)

Over 40 unique scholarships for Morgan County residents with varying requirements and benefits

EXAMPLE ESSAY

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

As a member of my generation, it is my responsibility to become active in changing the world for the better. Enrolling, and excelling, in many extra-curricular programs has enhanced my ability to engage in an active role in improving the school as well as the community. Becoming active in reaching out and providing aid for those who seek it has reinforced my inspiration to take time out of my life to benefit others. Selecting advanced subjects has successfully challenged my work ethic and time management skills.

Academics are my highest priority, but I maintain a well-balanced lifestyle by pursuing the pleasures in life: spending time with friends and family, working hard at my job and gaining a dependable income, and exercising by playing in a recreational basketball league.

I am so grateful for the opportunities that have been given to me, and I do not regret the choices I have made in my life through those opportunities. I have lived a very unique and special life, learning a vast number of lessons along the way. In my life, I have traveled abroad, exposing me to new cultures and have adapted in a way that was accepted by those cultures. I have traveled to a different state with my father to attend a program that taught me the importance of enthusiasm and positive reinforcement. Due to the opportunities given to me, and the lessons I have learned throughout my life, I am confident in saying that I am well-adapted and prepared to succeed and achieve at the University of _____.

Original Source: College Confidential; MindSumo. Scholarship Essays. [Webpage](#). Accessed on 8/19/2019.