



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Applicants

Q: I meet all the eligibility criteria except one. Can I apply?

A: No. You must meet all eligibility criteria in order to apply.

Q: I am already in college. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: No. The Esperanza Scholarship is open only to high school seniors and recent GED graduates not yet enrolled in college.

Q: I have a GED and want to go to college. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: Yes, you can apply as long as you passed your GED test within the last four years. Please be sure to select “I’m a GED student” when you reach the qualifications tab in the application.

Q: I want to go to a community college. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: Yes, as long as you meet the other eligibility criteria. The Esperanza Scholarship provides two-year scholarships for students to attend community college.

Q: I am currently in community college and want to transfer to a four-year college. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: No. The Esperanza Scholarship is open only to high school seniors or recent GED recipients.

Q: I live in California but want to attend college in Virginia. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: No. The Esperanza Scholarship is open only to students graduating from high schools located in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Q: I live in Virginia but want to attend a public college or university in California. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: Yes, as long as you meet the other eligibility criteria. The Esperanza Scholarship can be used to attend any accredited public college or university in the U.S.

Q: I did not take the SAT or ACT. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: Yes. If your college did not require you to take the SAT or ACT, you are not required to submit a score report.

Q: What is the Esperanza Education Fund's College Board code?

A: The Esperanza Education Fund does not have a College Board code. Please make a copy of your score report in case you are selected as a finalist.

Q: Is there a minimum GPA requirement for the Scholarship?

A: No, there is not minimum GPA requirement, but if you went to high school in the United States for all four years, we are unlikely to award you the scholarship if your GPA is under a 3.0. If you moved to the United States during high school, we will take into account that grade conversion from your foreign high school may be inaccurate and may award you a scholarship if your cumulative GPA is under a 3.0.

Q: I have applied to several schools, but I haven't decided where I will go yet. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: Yes, as long as you applied to a public school and understand that you will not receive any scholarship funds if you do not enroll in a public college or university. If you apply for the scholarship and later decide to attend a private school, please email us at apply@esperanzafund.org so that we can disregard your application.

Q: I am not sure if the school I want to attend is public or private. How can I tell?

A: Check on the school's website or call the school's admissions office. If you type the school's name into Google, the search results will indicate whether the school is public or private. Most community colleges are public. Some popular public schools in the region include:

- Northern Virginia Community College
- Montgomery College
- Prince George's Community College
- University of the District of Columbia
- University of Maryland
- University of Baltimore
- Morgan State University
- Salisbury University
- Towson University
- St. Mary's College of Maryland

- University of Virginia
- College of William and Mary
- Virginia Tech
- James Madison University
- University of Mary Washington
- George Mason University

We put a drop box in the application with the most popular local colleges. However, if you are going to a public college in another region, you are still eligible for the scholarship. Please select “other” and then list a public institution.

Q: I was born in the United States, and only one of my parents is an immigrant. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: No. The Esperanza Scholarship is open only to immigrants (born outside the United States) and those who are children of two immigrants.

Q: I was raised by a single parent who was born outside the United States. Can I apply?

A: Yes. We understand that some students may not have information about both their parents. As long as the parent you know about was born outside the United States, you can apply.

Q: My family is from Puerto Rico. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: No. Because Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, they are not considered immigrants.

Q: I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident. Can I apply for the Esperanza Scholarship?

A: Yes, as long as you meet the other eligibility criteria. The Esperanza Scholarship is open to all immigrant students, regardless of ethnicity, national origin, or immigration status.

Q: My tuition is covered by other scholarships. Will you pay for room and board or books?

A: No. The Esperanza scholarship will only pay for tuition. However, other scholarships may pay for both; therefore, you could potentially use the other scholarship’s money for room and board and Esperanza funds for tuition.

Q: How many applications do you receive per year, and how many scholarships do you award?

A: We receive 500-600 applications a year and award 8 to 12 scholarships.