

UNIVERSITY SOUTH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT GUIDE

\$110,000 Available for 2024-25

Applications Open April 1, 2024, and Close June 10, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Are you ready to turn your academic dreams into reality? University South Foundation (USF) Scholarships could be the key to realizing your goals.

Since 1988, USF has been a champion for expanding higher education opportunities in southern Arizona and offering scholarships since 2012.

Ready to dive in? Here's what you need to know:

Minimum Eligibility Requirements: If you call Cochise County home, you're already halfway there!

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, except as specified with Education Unidos/IME-Becas Scholarships.
- Actively resides in Cochise County or resides in Sonora, Mexico, but is actively working in Cochise County and only applying for Education Unidos or IME-Becas.
- I will be enrolled in six or more units of upper-division (Junior/Senior) undergraduate coursework, or I will be enrolled in five or more units of graduate/doctoral coursework, or I will be enrolled in a certificate program at an accredited institution by July 15, 2024.
- Undergraduate or certificate-seeking student with a minimum 2.75 GPA or graduate/doctoral student with a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- Not eligible for Qualified Tuition Reduction (QTR) benefits. Neither applicant, my spouse, nor a parent/guardian is employed by a public university in Arizona.
- Check out the full eligibility criteria for each scholarship program to see if you qualify.

Application Process: Dive into the application process with confidence! Remember, thoroughness is key. Answer all questions with clarity and completeness. New this year, we are utilizing a service provider for the submission of your application.

Scholarship Awards: With scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$8,000, the possibilities are endless! And guess what? Additional scholarships may be on the horizon, so keep your eyes peeled for updates!

Award Amounts Available

\$21,000	Merit-Based scholarships
\$20,000	Need-Based scholarships
\$18,000	Education Unidos scholarships
\$25,000	Cyber Program scholarships
\$5,000	Military scholarships
\$1,000	Besselman Memorial Scholarship
<u>\$5,000</u>	Non-Degree Seeking Certificate Program Scholarships
\$110,000	Total

Important Dates: Mark your calendars! The deadline for applications is June 10, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Scholarship recipients will be notified via email by July 16, 2024. Plus, don't miss the Scholarship Receptions in Sierra Vista and Douglas in August. It's your chance to celebrate your achievements with fellow scholars!

SCHOLARSHIP PREPARATION & GUIDANCE

A. TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Follow instructions to ensure all requirements are met.
2. Demonstrate integrity by providing truthful responses.
3. Highlight your strengths, passions, and successes.
4. Prior to responding, thoroughly review the entire application and gather the required documents.
5. Familiarize yourself with the scholarship criteria and select all relevant scholarships for consideration.
6. Review the evaluation rubric to understand the expectations of reviewers.
7. Refine and polish your essay, if applicable, through practice and multiple revisions.
8. Make sure to submit your application by the deadline.

B. DOCUMENT UPLOADS

Be prepared to upload the following items (PDF Format preferred, but other formats allowed):

- Proof of Residency, provide one of these: (All applicants)
 - Driver's license
 - Utility bill in your name
 - State issued identification card
- Unofficial transcripts (All applicants)
- Proof of enrollment (All applicants)
 - You are required to provide proof of enrollment with the application or you may email to foundation@usfaz.org no later than July 15, 2024.
- Education Unidos Applicant – residing in Mexico
 - Proof of working in Cochise County
- Education Unidos – IME-Becas applicant proof of Mexican origin, provide one of these:
 - Mexican Birth Certificate
 - Parent's Mexican Birth Certificate
 - Mexican Passport
 - Consular ID Card
 - Mexican elector's identification (IFE or INE)
- Military Applicant (active duty, Veteran, military spouse)
 - DD214 or current Military Orders
- SSVEC Applicant
 - SSVEC account number

C. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS 2024-25

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS 2024-25

Every applicant can submit a single application and be evaluated for numerous scholarships. Choose all the scholarships you qualify for, and ensure you complete all relevant questions related to the selected scholarships. You will only be evaluated for the selected scholarships.

MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIP

- The Merit-Based Scholarship is seeking students who display academic merit through coursework, involvement, or outreach.
- Undergraduates or certificate-seeking students must have a minimum 3.25 GPA and graduate students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA.

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP

- The Need-Based Scholarship is seeking students with strong academic records and needs expressed through a written essay.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIP

- Have served or is serving in the US Military (supply DD214 or current military orders for verification only), or the spouse of a Veteran or active-duty personnel.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

- The scholarship is dedicated to pursuing cyber excellence. Must be enrolled in Applied Computing, Cyber Operations and Intelligence, or Information Operations.

EDUCATION UNIDOS SCHOLARSHIP

- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident residing or working in the Douglas/Bisbee/Agua Prieta/Naco area. If not actively residing in Cochise County, must provide proof of working in Cochise County (pay stub or employer letter/contract).

EDUCATION UNIDOS – IME-BECAS SCHOLARSHIP

A strong collaboration between the University South Foundation, Inc. and the Consulate of Mexico in Douglas exists to increase the educational level of Mexican Citizens or individuals of Mexican origin living in the United States through the program IME-Becas.

- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident residing or working in the Douglas/Bisbee/Agua Prieta/Naco area. If not actively residing in Cochise County, must provide proof of working in Cochise County (pay stub or employer letter/contract).
- Must demonstrate Mexican origin either through birth or with a Mexican-born parent by providing documentation (Mexican birth certificate, Mexican consular ID, Mexican passport, or Mexican IFE).

JUDY A GIGNAC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- Must be majoring in business, economics, political science, or related field.

RICH BESSELMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This is a privately funded scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 awarded annually to a student in the greater Sierra Vista area. The scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Rich Besselman, a University of Arizona graduate and long-time Sierra Vista, AZ resident and community leader. The successful applicant will be one that exemplifies Mr. Besselman's life of community service and public

dedication, while still maintaining their educational and career goals and obligations.

- Must reside in the greater Sierra Vista area.
- Must be an undergraduate or graduate degree-seeking student enrolled in at least 6 units and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- Major Requirements: Preference will be given to English, Creative Writing or Creative Writing Minor with a complementary major (e.g., English, Theater, etc.); additional consideration may be given to Government & Public Service, Cyber Operations, Organizational Leadership, or Human Services.
- Demonstrate a history of community involvement, leadership, and commitment to the Sierra Vista area.

SULPHUR SPRINGS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

- Open to members of Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative or dependent children of members. Must provide SSVEC account number.
- Must provide membership ID number and applicant's relation to SSVEC member.

CERTIFICATE SEEKING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

- Non-degree seeking student.

D. ESSAY QUESTIONS

Note: The essay questions provide the opportunity to showcase the applicant's achievements and aspirations and to express how a scholarship will help them reach their goals. It is critical that the response to each essay question be well-structured, concise, and reflects the applicant's voice. The reviewers are interested in learning about the student's passion, dedication, accomplishments, and goals, not a perfect generic response.

Questions 1-4 are required for all applicants. Question 5 is required for Education Unidos/IME-Becas applicants. Question 6 is required for University of Arizona CAST applicants.

MAOR - Question 1: Explain your choice of major – What inspired your interest in your chosen major? What personal characteristics, skills, etc., will enhance your success in this field? How will your study contribute to your immediate or long-range career plans? (Maximum 500 words)

COMMUNITY - Question 2: Discuss ways in which you have enriched your community or schools by participation in civic organizations, school clubs, community service projects, or military service (examples of such organizations and clubs would include but are not limited to, Rotary, Kiwanis, AFCEA, Habitat for Humanity, National Honor Society, Key Club, DECA, etc.). Describe how your leadership and service have made a positive difference in your college, community, job, and/or military career. (Maximum 500 words)

FINANCIAL IMPACT - Question 3: From a financial standpoint, what impact would this scholarship have on your education and if applicable, your military career? (Maximum 300 words)

CHALLENGES - Question 4: Please explain any circumstances or challenges you face that may make continuing your education difficult without additional financial assistance. (Maximum 300 words)

BI-NATIONAL - Question 5: How will your professional goals contribute to the Bi-National (United States and Mexico) relationship and improve the lives of citizens of both nations? (Maximum 600 words)

CYBER - Question 6: How will obtaining your degree or completing the certificate program improve the cybersecurity posture for yourself, your company, and the nation? (Maximum 750 words)

E. EVALUATION RUBRIC

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Description</i>	Points
MAJOR ESSAY QUESTION 1 University Major & Career Plans	<i>The narrative provides meaningful insight into the applicant’s educational goals and long-range career plans, including examples, explanations, and evidence of how the applicant plans to achieve those interests/goals.</i>	30
COMMUNITY ESSAY QUESTION 2 Experiences, Leadership, Community Involvement	<i>Describes significant experiences and involvement in extracurricular and community activities that serve others and make a positive difference.</i>	20
FINANCIAL IMPACT ESSAY QUESTION 3 Impact of Scholarship	<i>Demonstrates the impact the scholarship would have on the student’s education/plans for the future/etc.</i>	30
CHALLENGES ESSAY QUESTION 4 Challenges faced without financial assistance	<i>The applicant has documented expenses or circumstances creating a financial need.</i>	10
Mechanics/Grammar/ Organization/Focus (Consider all answers to essay questions)	<i>It is well thought out and exceptionally written. Instructions were followed. Free of grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors. Very well organized; easy to read, clear and focused; and relevant quality details give the reader important information.</i>	10
SUB-TOTAL		100
Education Unidos ESSAY QUESTION 5	<i>The applicant describes goals to contribute to the Bi-National (United States and Mexico) relationship.</i>	20
Cybersecurity Posture ESSAY QUESTION 6	<i>The applicant describes the impact of training on the cybersecurity posture of the individual, company, and nation.</i>	40
GPA based on the table below	<i>Academic Achievement as demonstrated by grade point average. (See chart below.)</i>	10
FAFSA and need-based support	<i>Financial Need as demonstrated by FAFSA submitted, receiving some need-based institutional support.</i>	10

GPA Points for Merit – Undergraduate or Certificate Seeking		GPA Points for Merit - Graduate	
3.25 - 3.39	2	3.5 - 3.59	2
3.40 - 3.54	4	3.60 - 3.69	4
3.55 - 3.69	6	3.70- 3.79	6
3.70 - 3.84	8	3.8 - 3.89	8
3.85 - 4.00	10	3.9 - 4.00	10

F. HOW AWARDS ARE APPLIED

1. The Foundation will only pay scholarship grants directly to the educational institution and only for qualified educational expenses on behalf of the scholarship recipient.
2. The award will be disbursed to a student's bursar account approximately ten days before classes begin once the student's lawful presence has been verified, and the student is enrolled in six or more units per term.
3. The total award amount is for the academic year and divided equally between the fall and spring semesters for students requesting an award for both semesters.
4. The award must be used beginning with the fall semester or may be delayed until the spring semester if requested on the application.
5. Students who complete their undergraduate degree in less than two consecutive semesters may use the remaining semester(s) toward graduate tuition. Students who meet the criteria may notify the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and the University South Foundation office once admitted to a graduate degree-seeking program and enrolled as a full-time graduate student.
6. The University will apply the grant funds for the second semester only for enrolled students in good standing.

G. WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Withdrawal Policy: If a student withdraws and is eligible for a tuition refund, the student forfeits that semester of scholarship eligibility and must repay the scholarship amount. The scholarship may be reviewed for reinstatement in the following semester. Students must submit a request to the University South Foundation Scholarship Committee explaining their situation and request the use of funds for the next semester within thirty days of withdrawal.

H. POTENTIAL AWARD TAX LIABILITY

1. The IRS has encouraged scholarship providers to voluntarily alert recipients that at least some portion of an award may be taxable. The following statement will be included in award letters to assist students in understanding their federal tax liabilities.

"Scholarship support payments may be taxable to the recipient in full or part. The recipient is responsible for determining the value of tuition, registration, other university fees, books, supplies, and equipment. Specific questions regarding the tax treatment of this award should be directed to a tax advisor or the Internal Revenue Service."

2. Qualified Expenses – Certain expenses incurred in attending an educational institution. They are: (This information is in IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.)
 - a. Tuition and fees for enrollment and attendance.
 - b. Course-related expenses – fees, books, supplies, and equipment required of all students for courses of instruction.
 - c. Room and board, travel, research, clerical assistance. Payments for expenses in this group are not exempt from income tax.

For more information, contact the University South Foundation:

FOUNDATION@USFAZ.ORG | 520.626.6594

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