

2018 American Airlines Federal Credit Union Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible?

- Applicants must have his/her own account and be an active member (non dormant) in good standing with American Airlines Credit Union. Membership will be verified upon receipt of the transcript. If you have any questions about your eligibility please inquire at scholarship@aacreditunion.org.
- Applicants must either be a graduating high school senior or a current college student with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA.
- Applicants must be enrolled full-time in college, university or trade school in fall 2018.
- Applicants must not be a previous winner of any American Airlines Credit Union Scholarship.

How many scholarship are available?

- There are 11 scholarships available.
 - Essay Option - There will be ten awards total. There will be six high school winners and four college winners
 - Video Option – There will be one award total. High school and college students will be in the same category

Which scholarship should I apply for?

As the number of applicants varies by year, we cannot estimate the approximate number of applicants for each award. We are unable to answer questions regarding your chances or of your odds. You may view the prompts for each option by selecting “video” or “essay” when asked. You should choose the category that best plays to your strengths. Academic performance is considered in the essay category, while the video category has a larger percentage of the score based on the video itself.

How are applications scored and judged?

Essay-Based Applications

- Academic achievement, résumé, letters of recommendation and essays have a relatively equal weight among each.

Video-Based Applications

- 75% of the score will be based on the video
- 25% of the score will be based on the résumé and references.
- Academic Achievement is not reviewed as long as the minimum GPA of 3.0 is met.

The decision of the committee is final. Please see the Helpful Hints document for further details on what the committee is looking for.

What are the chances of being awarded a scholarship?

Although we wish we could give out more than the 11 \$5,000 awards, we are unable to provide an award for every qualified applicant. During the 2017 Scholarship process, the committee reviewed and processed more than 350 applications.

If I applied in the past do I have to complete a new application?

All applicants from a previous year are welcome to apply again as long as they meet the requirements. However, as there have been some changes to the application, members must create a new account and resubmit their information. The Scholarship Committee will not be able to refer to any information submitted in a prior year when considering applications.

Is there an age limit?

There is no age limit as long as the applicant meets all other eligibility requirements.

Are graduate school students eligible?

Graduate school students are eligible if they will be enrolled full time in the Fall of 2018.

When is the deadline for materials?

All electronic materials must be submitted via the electronic submission form located at scholarship.aacreditunion.org by 5:00 p.m. CST on March 1, 2018. Transcripts must be postmarked by March 1, 2018. Applicants will be unable to access the application after the deadline has passed.

How will I know that you have received my application?

Throughout the process, applicants will receive several email communications advising of the receipt of various materials. It is your responsibility to notify the Credit Union by emailing scholarship@aacreditunion.org prior to the deadline if you feel you should have received a communication that you did not. Please be on the lookout for the following emails:

- Notification you have created an account
- Notification for each letter of recommendation request that has been sent to your references
- Notification when each reference has uploaded a letter of recommendation
- Notification when your application has been submitted through the electronic portal
- Notification when your transcript has arrived (This email will not arrive until we manually process your transcript, which could be after the March 1 deadline.)
- Notification when your application is complete (See below for definition of a complete application.)

What is considered a complete application?

A complete application must include all materials submitted by 5:00 p.m. CST on March 1, 2018, unless otherwise noted below. Applications missing any materials will not be considered for the scholarship. A complete application includes:

- All fields filled out and submitted through the electronic portal
- Two letters of recommendation
- An official transcript (postmarked by March 1, 2018)
- Parental Release form, if applicable for applicants under the age of 18 (postmarked or electronically uploaded by March 1, 2018)
- A résumé no longer than two (2) pages
- Two essays no longer than 300 words each or a video no larger than 25 MB
- An individual photo
- A Credit Union membership in the applicant's name (to be verified by the Credit Union upon receiving the transcript)

What happens if I forget my username or password?

When you create an account, you will receive an email with your user name in it. You will be unable to reset your user name. If you forget your password, follow the prompts on the log-in screen. In the event you do have to start a new application, please notify us via scholarship@aacreditunion.org so we can combine the two applications.

Who should I ask to submit a letter of recommendation?

The best letters of recommendations are written by someone who knows you well. Letters of recommendation from relatives will not be accepted. Letters should contain extra insight or anecdotes into your personality and character that is not reflected by reading your résumé alone.

Can I change a reference after my original submission?

If a reference is unable to provide a letter, log back into the first page of your application (by hitting the "back" button at the bottom). When prompted, provide a new name and email address and hit "Next" at the bottom of the page. Late letters of recommendation will not be accepted.

What if my reference didn't receive the email request?

The email request to references are delivered immediately. If your reference did not receive one, please advise them to check their spam folder for an email from scholarship@aacreditunion.org. On occasion the email request is blocked by a firewall. You may log back into your account and request the email be sent again to an alternate email address. If the reference never received the email, advise them to email the letter directly to scholarship@aacreditunion.org. It is your responsibility to ensure the request has been received. You will receive confirmation when the letter has been uploaded. Late letters will not be accepted.

Why must I submit a photo?

Photos are used only for publicity for the winners. The judging committee does not see the photo of any applicant.

What is the release authorization for?

By selecting "Unrestricted," you allow the Credit Union to publish and use excerpts of your application materials. Quotes or excerpts from your essays or video could be used in publications, advertising or social media. By selecting "Limited," you prefer to be contacted prior to using your application materials. By selecting "Restricted," your application will not be used on any subsequent materials. Your choice has no bearing on the scholarship selection.

What happens to my essays and video?

Only members of the judging committee will have access to your essays or video. However, if you select "Unrestricted" in the release authorization, the Credit Union has permission to post or share either excerpts or your essay or video in its entirety.

Do I have to submit an application electronically?

All applications must be submitted electronically with the exception of the transcript (which must be mailed in) and if applicable, the parental release (mailed in or electronic).

When will winners be notified?

Winners will be notified by phone in mid May 2018. Winners will be invited to a special awards presentation in late May. All other applicants will be notified via the email address included on their application in June 2018.

How is the scholarship money awarded?

Scholarship winners will be presented a physical check or the scholarship will be deposited directly into their American Airlines Credit Union share account. Prior to receiving the scholarship funds, members must submit an acceptance letter or class schedule for the fall 2018 semester. If a winner cannot be contacted within five (5) business days of the notification call, the scholarship will also be forfeited and an alternate winner will be selected.