

# Moorpark College Foundation Scholarship Workshop

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Fall 2026

Moorpark College Foundation

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**ONE**

**APPLICATION=**

**120+**

**OPPORTUNITIES!**



**Awards:**  
**\$500-\$2,000**

**Application Open**  
**Dec. 1-Jan. 31**



**[bit.ly/mc\\_so](https://bit.ly/mc_so)**

# What We'll Cover



## **How Scholarships Work**



## **MCF Application**

Questionnaire  
Transcript  
References



## **Essays**

Mandatory essay prompts  
What each essay is really asking  
Optional Essays

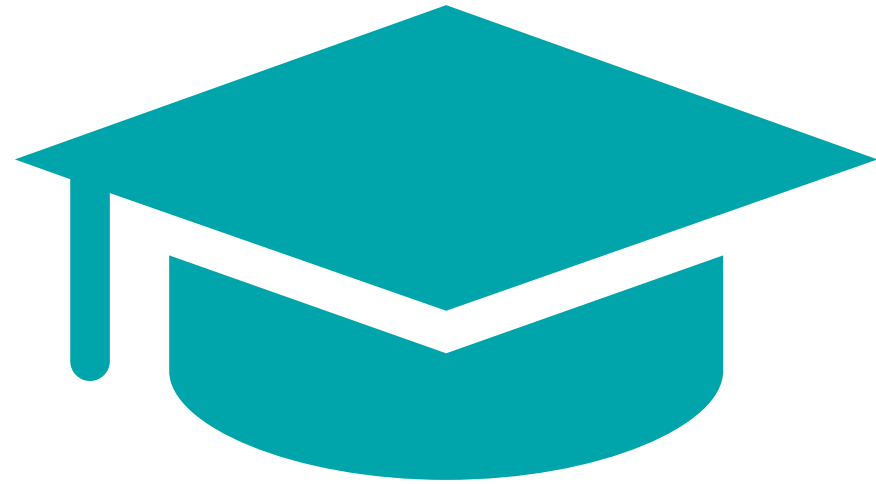


## **Get Ready to Apply**

What to check  
Where to get help



# How Scholarships Work



# How Do Scholarships Work?



## Defining Scholarships

- Privately-funded gift aid for college
- Does not have to be paid back
- Different scholarships are looking for different qualities, experiences, and goals

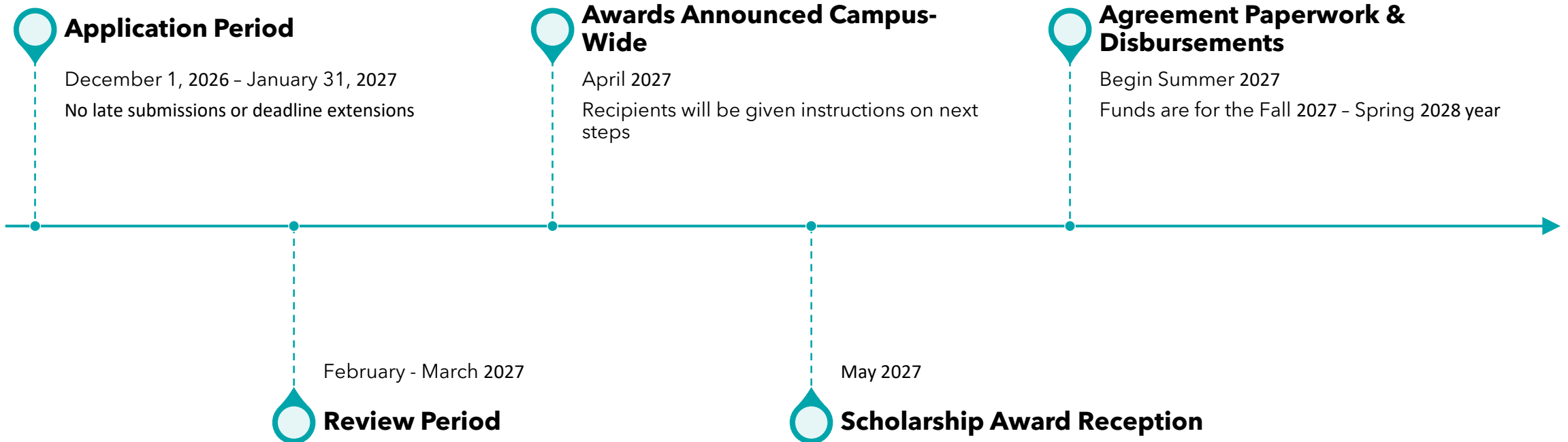
## Moorpark College Foundation Scholarships

- Exclusive to Moorpark College students
- One application → automatically matched to all scholarships you qualify for
- Both continuing and transferring students can apply
- Applications available on an annual basis

## Important Dates

- **Application Open: December 1, 2026**
- **Application Close: January 31, 2027**
- Awards for Fall 2027 - Spring 2028
- No late submissions or deadline extensions

# MCF Scholarship Timeline



# MCF Application

- Questionnaire
- Transcript
- References



# Application: Questionnaire



## Major

List the field that best represents your educational or career path.

If you have two majors, choose the one most relevant to your career goals.

If you're still not sure, ask Cristy

## Student Status (for 2027-2028)

**Bachelor at MC:** You are starting or continuing a Bachelor's program at Moorpark College.

**Continuing:** You are staying at Moorpark College but not in a Bachelor's program.

**Transferring:** You will move to a 4-year college or university in Fall 2027 or Spring 2028.

## Enrollment Status

**Full-time:** 12+ units per semester

**Part-time:** Fewer than 12 units per semester

**Different Full-Time Requirements**  
Some programs or circumstances may consider fewer units full-time.  
Examples: Nursing & ACCESS

## Major-Specific Questions

Read these carefully.

Don't worry if you answer "No" to some questions.

# Application: Transcript



## Get Your Transcript

**Download your unofficial transcript from MyVCCCD**

Step-by-step instructions are available in the application and online guide

## Check Your Transcript

**Use a transcript that includes your final Fall 2026 grades**

**Overall GPA** → report this GPA on your application

**Overall Earned Hours** → your completed units

## GPA Requirements

Some scholarships have a minimum GPA, usually 2.5-3.0

Others have no GPA requirement

**Everyone is encouraged to apply, regardless of GPA.**

# Application Overview: References



## Who Can Be a Reference?

- An **academic or professional reference** who knows you from **school, work, or your community**
- Examples:** professor, counselor, supervisor, coworker, or community leader
- Ask them first!** Make sure they agree to be your reference before entering their information.

## How Many?

- List **at least 1 reference** to complete this section.
- You can list **up to 3 references**.
- You can add or change references **until you submit**

## What Happens?

- Ask someone to be your reference.**
- Once agreed, enter their **name and email** in the application.
- They'll receive an email with a **unique PIN and instructions** for accessing their reference page.
- They can **complete a short survey, upload a letter of recommendation, or do both.**
- Let your reference know they can **choose whichever option works best for them.**

## Good to Know

- Your references do not need to finish before you submit
- You cannot add or change references after submitting
- References have until **February 5, 2027** to respond



Rita Book (MC Student)



Professor Wright  
(Rita's instructor)



Paige (Rita's Boss)



Mark (Volunteer Organizer)



### Before December 1

Rita asks Professor Wright and Paige to be her references.  
Both agree.



### December 5

Rita enters references into her application.  
Professor Wright and Paige receive automated emails with unique PINs.



### January 10

Rita asks Mark to be a last-minute reference.  
Mark agrees and Rita adds him to her application.  
Mark receives email and PIN.



### January 20

Rita submits her application (student deadline: **January 31**).  
She also sends a reminder to Paige.



### February 5 Final reference deadline.

all three Rita's references are included on her application



December 1

MCF application opens.



December 12

Professor Wright completes his reference.



January 15

Mark completes his reference.



February 1

Paige has been super busy and appreciates Rita's reminder.  
Paige submits her reference.

# Essays

- Mandatory essay prompts
- What each essay is really asking
- Optional Essays



# Mandatory Essays



## Requirements

- **5 mandatory essays**
- **300 words maximum** each
- The same five essays are required for **every applicant**
- **All review committees can access these essays**

## Strategy

- **Start drafting early**
- Write your essays in a separate document first, then copy and paste them into the application
- Get feedback from the **Scholarship Office or Writing Center**

## Good To Know

- These prompts are **great practice for scholarship beginners!**
- Many scholarship applications ask about the same core topics, such as your goals, experiences, challenges, and how a scholarship would help you.

# Mandatory Essay Prompts



## 1. Educational Goals Essay

Explain the relationship between your academic pursuits and career ambitions. What have you already accomplished, and what do you envision for your future?

**Throughline** → Here's where I am going

## 2. Campus Activities Essay

Describe your involvement in campus life and its impact on your overall experience. What has it meant to you?

**Throughline** → Here's how I show up on campus

## 3. Community Service Essay

Describe your experience with community service. How has this involvement shaped your personal or professional aspirations?

**Throughline** → Here's how I show up in my community

## 4. Financial Need Essay

Tell us about a financial challenge you've faced during your education and how it has influenced your approach to your studies.

**Throughline** → Here's what's in my way or challenging me

## 5. Scholarship Impact Essay

How would receiving this scholarship affect your educational journey? Please share your thoughts.

**Throughline** → Here's how a scholarship can help

# 1. Educational Goals Essay



## Prompt

- Explain the relationship between your academic pursuits and career ambitions.
- What have you already accomplished?
- What do you envision for your future?

## Direction – Where are you going?

- Academic and career goals
- Why you chose your field
- What you want to do with your education

## Momentum – How are you getting there?

- Accomplishments and experiences
- What you're doing now
- Your next steps

## Throughline → Here's where I am going

- One of the **most important questions** in the application
- Gives reviewers a big-picture view of you and your goals
- You don't have to have it **all figured out**

## 2 & 3. Campus Activities + Community Service



### Prompts:

- **2. Campus Activities Essay**
  - Describe your involvement in campus life and its impact on your overall experience. **What has it meant to you?**
- **3. Community Service Essay**
  - Describe your experience with community service. **How has this involvement shaped your personal or professional aspirations?**

### Think beyond a laundry list

- Don't just list everything you've done
- Explain **why it mattered**
- Focus on your contribution and impact

### Throughline → Here's how I show up

- **How do you show up for your community?**
- What do you contribute to the people and places around you?
- What have you learned from those experiences?
- How might that show up later in your **career or life?**

# 4 & 5. Financial Need + Scholarship Impact



## Prompt

### •Financial Need Essay

- Tell us about a financial challenge you've faced during your education and how it has influenced your approach to your studies.

### •Scholarship Impact Essay

- How would receiving this scholarship affect your educational journey? Please share your thoughts.

## Financial Need – What's in my way?

- Identify a **specific financial challenge**
- Explain **how it affects your education**
- What is this challenge making harder for you?

## Scholarship Impact – How can a scholarship help?

- Refer back to the **challenge you identified**
- Explain how the scholarship would **change its impact on your education**
- What would you be able to do differently?

## Throughline

- A strong **wrap-up to your Educational Goals essay**
- Connect **where you're going** with **what's in your way**
- Show how a scholarship can help you **keep moving toward your goals**
- Help reviewers see **why their support can make a difference**

# Application Overview: Optional Essays

## Some scholarships have additional essay questions.

Only reviewed for scholarships that require them

Prompts are usually specific to that scholarship

Answer **as many or as few as you like**

There is **no penalty for skipping** an optional essay

You must still meet the scholarship's other eligibility requirements

## Think of it this way

**Mandatory essays** → Build your main story

**Optional essays** → Tell us more when a scholarship asks for it



Get Ready to  
Apply



# Get Ready to Apply



## Read the Scholarship Guide

- See what to expect and find the essay prompts.
- Scan the QR code to access the guide.

## Start Your Essays

- Draft your essays before the application opens.
- Get feedback from the Writing Center or Scholarship Office.

## Ask Your References

- Choose your references early and give them at least 2 weeks' notice.

Questions? I'm here to help.

- Cristy, Scholarship Tech.
- Fountain Hall 210-C
- [mcscholar@vccd.edu](mailto:mcscholar@vccd.edu)
- (805) 378-1418
- [www.moorparkcollege.edu/scholarship](http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/scholarship)

