



# Aero Club Foundation of Washington Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements

## OVERVIEW

The Aero Club Foundation of Washington fosters and promotes interest in the principles and development of aviation and aeronautics by establishing, sponsoring and supporting student education programs at public and public charter schools in the District of Columbia.

The Aero Club Foundation of Washington has established a scholarship program to provide financial assistance to students in the greater District of Columbia area who demonstrate a passion for aviation with the intent to pursue an education and career in aviation or aerospace and have a financial need for scholarship assistance.

The standard scholarship consists of an award of **\$5,000** that is paid directly to an educational institution to offset the cost of the recipient's aviation/aerospace-focused degree tuition.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Each candidate must submit by March 16, 2026 the following information:

1. A completed online application: <https://www.aeroclub.org/foundation/scholarship-program/application/>;
2. A 300-400-word written essay, which should explain the candidate's career goals and articulate a passion for an aviation/aerospace career;
3. Minimum of one letter of recommendation, preferably from a teacher or guidance counselor who can articulate the applicant's career goals in aviation/aerospace and/or financial need;
4. Most recent year of the candidate's transcript(s); and
5. Copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) from your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – Recommended. In the alternative, please complete demonstrated financial need information as part of the online application.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The recipient of the scholarship will be restricted to a candidate who:

1. Meets the Application Requirements above;
2. Is seeking an aviation/aerospace related education with an established objective to achieve a career in the aviation/aerospace industry;
3. Resides in the Greater Washington, DC area;<sup>1</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup>Specifically, the District of Columbia and the following local jurisdictions: Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Prince George's, and Montgomery Counties.



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4. Will be enrolled in an accredited undergraduate aviation/aerospace degree program, a technical college, aviation maintenance training school, or professional pilot training school during the current academic year.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

An independent Selection Committee, as appointed by the Aero Club Foundation of Washington's Board of Directors, has the final decision as to each scholarship award and each award is made at its sole discretion, as overseen by the Board. The following is a summary of the criteria that the Selection Committee will consider when evaluating each candidate for a scholarship:

1. The candidate's career goals, articulating a passion for an aviation/aerospace career and a commitment to the aviation/aerospace community;
2. The candidate's overall academic success, motivation, teamwork, history of achievement, community service, attitude, and leadership;
3. The candidate's demonstration of financial need; and
4. Whether the candidate graduated from, or soon will graduate or received a GED from, one of the District of Columbia's public or public charter schools that participate in the Aero Club Foundation's sponsored programs. Participating schools are listed on the Foundation's website.

### **ADDITIONAL RULES & RESTRICTIONS**

The Aero Club Foundation of Washington prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family responsibilities, political affiliation, or disability.

Awards are limited to a maximum of four per individual, with a maximum of one award per grant year per individual. Previous award recipients will be considered for future scholarships, provided they re-apply and meet the aforementioned Eligibility Requirements.

Scholarship funds cannot be used to pay for personal expenses; they must be applied towards college tuition when enrolled in an accredited undergraduate aviation/aerospace degree program, a technical college, aviation maintenance training at a Part 147 AMT school, or professional pilot training at a Part 141 flight training school.

A scholarship award must be used within one year following the date of award but can be dispersed over time at the discretion of the Foundation. If the award or any portion thereof is unused, it must be returned to the Aero Club Foundation of Washington. Scholarship funds will be disbursed to the educational institution, not directly to the student.



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Candidates do not have to be U.S. citizens, although all scholarship award payments are made in U.S. dollars directly to the educational institution or school.

All applications must be received submitted by March 16, 2026. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

### **PUBLICITY**

To the best of our ability, names and addresses of *applicants* will remain confidential and will not be shared with organizations or individuals outside the scope of the scholarship process. It should be understood, however, that correspondence necessary in processing an application (such as follow up requests for letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc.) may be made by the Aero Club Foundation of Washington.

Scholarship award *recipients* will be asked to allow the use of their name and photograph in a Aero Club Foundation of Washington newsletter, website, public events and press release(s) for publicity purposes. Award recipients will be asked to grant express permission to the Aero Club Foundation of Washington for these purposes. The Award recipient may also be requested to help promote the scholarship program.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Eligible applicants should apply online at [www.aeroclub.org/foundation](http://www.aeroclub.org/foundation)

If the applicant is unable to submit the application online, please contact Stephanie Griffith, Executive Director, Aero Club of Washington at 703.386.4330.

### **NOTIFICATION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Award recipients will be contacted by an official of the Aero Club Foundation of Washington. Please do not contact the Foundation or the Aero Club or any Board Member before award recipients are announced. The Foundation will strive to notify award recipients no later than April 30.