

East River Federal Credit Union

Educational Scholarship Application



2026



East River
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

2026 Educational Scholarship Application

As part of its continuing commitment to higher education, East River Federal Credit Union is offering Educational Scholarships to its membership.

Awards

Six (6) \$1,000.00 Scholarships for graduating seniors or currently enrolled full-time college, university, or vocational students.

Qualifications

Scholarships are open to high school seniors who are applying for or have been accepted for admission to an accredited college, university, or vocational school, or currently enrolled full-time college, university, or vocational students.

Applicant must have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.0 or above.

Scholarship applicant must be a member (not applicant's parents) in good standing for at least one (1) year.

Requirements

Scholarship application: Must be complete and submitted with all requested supporting documents attached by the deadline. Applications may either be neatly handwritten or typed.

Essay: Not to exceed 500 words, typed, answering the following: "Only 57% of Americans are considered to be financially literate. What does financial literacy mean to you personally, and what role does East River Federal Credit Union play in helping you achieve that?" **NOTE:** We know that AI is a great tool to help people write, but we would like the essay to be in your original voice.

Activity and involvement: List volunteer, community service, extracurricular, or school activities as well as jobs you have had on the form below. Include the dates of each. List on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

References: Submit two (2) letters of reference from a teacher, counselor, employer, or community leader with your application. They may also be mailed, emailed or dropped-off separately from the application.

College acceptance letter: College acceptance letter or proof of enrollment at a college, university, or vocational school (e.g. bill, schedule) must be submitted. If you have not yet received a letter of acceptance, obtain a letter from your counselor stating the name of the college, university, or vocational school and the date your application for admission was mailed.

Transcript: A copy of your high school or most recent college transcript must be submitted.

Photo: Email a recent photo to the Marketing Specialist, Jenna Welbig (jenna@eastriverfcu.com) for use in East River FCU promotional materials.

Judging

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

Content: All items should be organized and neatly presented. Application must include all requested information and be free of grammatical errors.

Merit: Community service/volunteerism involvement, academic achievement and reference letters will be considered.

Creativity: Originality of the essay will be considered.

Special Requirements

Applicants must submit the application with all supporting documents attached by the announced deadline date. Letters of reference can be submitted separately. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications must be emailed, dropped off at the CU or mailed and postmarked no later than Friday, March 27, 2026. Applications that are submitted or postmarked after the announced deadline will not be considered.

Please mail applications and all supporting documents to:

East River Federal Credit Union
Attn: Scholarship Committee
220 S Harth Ave., Madison, SD 57042

Or email documents to: katie@eastriverfcu.com

If you have any questions about the scholarship program contact Katie Chism at katie@eastriverfcu.com or (605) 256-8285. Award winners will be notified by the first week in May. All submitted applications become the property of ERFCU and will not be returned.

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Please complete the form below. Attach extra sheets if necessary. Only completed applications will be considered.
Handwritten applications will be accepted but please write neatly and clearly.
Please include an email you will still have access to after you graduate.

Personal Information

Name:

First Last MI

Address:

Street Address City State Zip

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Scholastic Information

High School:

Name of School Phone Number Graduation Date

Volunteer, Academic, Extracurricular Activities and Honors Experience:

Employment Experience (Title & Duties):

College, university or vocational school (plan on/currently attending):

Name of School City State

What will your class status be in the fall of the year 2026?

(Note that you must be enrolled for the 2026 fall semester to eligible for this scholarship.)

☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

Major course of study: _____ Minor: _____

Career plans after school: _____

Are you a U.S. citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

****I authorize East River FCU to use my name and photograph in Credit Union publications.****

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____