

2026 Scholarship Essay Questions

Applications are available for the following scholarship categories. Students are encouraged to apply for as many scholarships as they desire and for which they are qualified.

Start your application process now. Applications must be submitted online by Friday, **April 24th, 2026**. Contact the FPSF if you have any questions or need any assistance completing the application. Contact can be made using the "Contact" section of our website, ferndaleschoolsfoundation.org.

General Application

1. **Soaring Eagles Scholarships:** Two \$5,000 scholarships provided through the Ferndale Public Schools Foundation (FPSF).
2. **Ferndale Scholarship Fund:** One \$6000 scholarship hosted by Ferndale Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Whatcom Community Foundation.
3. **Wesley D. Martinsen Memorial Scholarship:** One \$3000 scholarship. This scholarship is hosted by Ferndale Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Whatcom Community Foundation.
4. **William and Judy McCourt Scholarship:** One \$1000 scholarship. This scholarship is hosted by Ferndale Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Whatcom Community Foundation.

Veteran Legacy Application

5. **Veteran Legacy Scholar Fund:** Two \$5,000 scholarships awarded to students related to a US Military Veteran provided by generous donation from the American Legion, Kulshan Post 154.

Financial Need Application

6. **Ferndale Alumni Scholarship:** One 4-year recurring, \$5,000/year scholarship for a student pursuing a 4-year degree. This scholarship will be evaluated for both application quality and students' financial need.
7. **Bruce Berry Memorial Scholarship Fund:** One \$1000 scholarship provided in memory of Bruce Berry who served as school principal of both Vista Middle and Central Elementary schools in Ferndale. This scholarship is hosted by Ferndale Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Whatcom Community Foundation. Selection criteria for this scholarship are work ethic, academic potential, and financial need.

8. **Mary L. Selio Memorial Scholarship:** One \$1000 scholarship. This scholarship is hosted by Ferndale Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Whatcom Community Foundation. Financial need will be considered as part of the selection criteria for this scholarship.

Philanthropic Educational Organization Application

9. **Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) Sisterhood Scholarship (for Female Bellingham Technical College Student):** One \$1000 scholarship for a female student entering Bellingham Technical College.
10. **Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) Sisterhood Scholarship (for Female Whatcom County Community College Student):** One \$1000 scholarship for a female student entering Whatcom County Community College.

Arts and Humanities Application

11. **Richard and Elaine Tucker Scholarship:** One \$5000 scholarship offered on even years. This scholarship is hosted by Ferndale Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Whatcom Community Foundation. This scholarship will be granted to a student entering an arts and humanities field including visual/performing arts and writing/literature.

Technical Education Application

12. **Jan Marchbanks & D.C. Morse Jr. Scholarship:** One 2-year recurring, \$1500 scholarship offered to students entering a two year, career-oriented field such as medical technician, construction trades, computer technician, or other vocational fields of study. Selection criteria for this scholarship are financial need, citizenship traits including attendance, respect for others, and respect shown to the applicant by classmates and staff. This scholarship is hosted by Ferndale Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Whatcom Community Foundation.

Aviation Application

13. **Walsh Family Aviation Scholarship:** One \$500 scholarship for flight time or flight school tuition for a Ferndale High School senior. Funds for this scholarship were generously provided by James Walsh, Horizon Middle School Dean of Students, former Ferndale Public Schools Foundation Board member, and avid aviator.

Selection Criteria:

Eligibility:

- Attend a two year or 4-year college or university or trade school

- Be entering your first year in post-secondary education in Fall 2026
- Meet the GPA requirements listed for each scholarship. If no GPA requirements are listed, at least a 2.75 minimum GPA is required for all scholarships.

Scholarship Application Category Specific Essays

General Application

1. *Soaring Eagle Scholarships*
2. *Ferndale Scholarship Fund*
3. *Wesley D. Martinsen Memorial Endowed Scholarship*
4. *William and Judy McCourt Scholarship*

Essay Prompt 1:

Write a brief essay (usually 300-500 words) addressing one or more of the following topics.

1. Describe a memorable experience that has had a significant impact on your life and outlook.
2. Explain your passions and interests outside of academics. How have these interests influenced your goals or personal development?
3. Describe a time when you faced adversity and how you persevered.
4. Highlight your leadership roles and community involvement. Explain how your leadership experiences have impacted your community and personal growth.

Here's a tip: Tailor your essay to the scholarship's objectives and criteria and make sure to proofread and revise your essay for clarity and coherence. Additionally, be honest and authentic in your writing, as scholarship committees often value genuine and unique perspectives.

Veteran Legacy Application

1. *Veteran Legacy Scholarship*

Essay Prompt 1:

Write a brief essay (usually 300-500 words) addressing one or more of the following topics.

1. Describe a memorable experience that has had a significant impact on your life and outlook.

2. Explain your passions and interests outside of academics. How have these interests influenced your goals or personal development?
3. Describe a time when you faced adversity and how you persevered.
4. Highlight your leadership roles and community involvement. Explain how your leadership experiences have impacted your community and personal growth.

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Essay Prompt 2:

What is your relationship with a US Military Veteran (parent, grandparent, sibling, etc)? In which branch or branches of the US Military did your relative or relatives serve (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Space Force)? In less than 500 words, explain how this individual or these individuals has/have played a pivotal role in your life.

Financial Need Application

1. *Ferndale Alumni Scholarship*
2. *Bruce Berry Memorial Scholarship Fund*
3. *Mary L. Seilo Memorial Scholarship*

Essay Prompt 1:

Write a brief essay (usually 300-500 words) addressing one or more of the following topics.

1. Describe a memorable experience that has had a significant impact on your life and outlook.
2. Explain your passions and interests outside of academics. How have these interests influenced your goals or personal development?
3. Describe a time when you faced adversity and how you persevered.
4. Highlight your leadership roles and community involvement. Explain how your leadership experiences have impacted your community and personal growth.

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Essay Prompt 2:

In less than 500 words, please describe a significant financial challenge you have faced and how you navigated it, showcasing your determination to pursue your educational goals despite these obstacles.

Arts and Humanities Application

1. *Richard and Elaine Tucker Scholarship Fund*

Essay Prompt 1:

Write a brief essay (usually 300-500 words) addressing one or more of the following topics.

1. Describe a memorable experience that has had a significant impact on your life and outlook.
2. Explain your passions and interests outside of academics. How have these interests influenced your goals or personal development?
3. Describe a time when you faced adversity and how you persevered.
4. Highlight your leadership roles and community involvement. Explain how your leadership experiences have impacted your community and personal growth.

Here's a tip: Tailor your essay to the scholarship's objectives and criteria and make sure to proofread and revise your essay for clarity and coherence. Additionally, be honest and authentic in your writing, as scholarship committees often value genuine and unique perspectives.

Essay Prompt 2:

Great art and literature are rarely created in a vacuum - they require a community built on mutual respect and reliability. Reflecting on your work in arts and humanities, share a story of a time your civic engagement made a difference. How have you earned the respect of those you work with? How will these values define the kind of artist or writer you aim to become?

Technical Careers Application

1. *Jan Marchbanks and D.C. Morse Jr. Scholarship*

Essay Prompt 1:

Write a brief essay (usually 300-500 words) addressing one or more of the following topics.

1. Describe a memorable experience that has had a significant impact on your life and outlook.
2. Explain your passions and interests outside of academics. How have these interests influenced your goals or personal development?
3. Describe a time when you faced adversity and how you persevered.
4. Highlight your leadership roles and community involvement. Explain how your leadership experiences have impacted your community and personal growth.

Here's a tip: Tailor your essay to the scholarship's objectives and criteria and make sure to proofread and revise your essay for clarity and coherence. Additionally, be honest and authentic in your writing, as scholarship committees often value genuine and unique perspectives.

Essay Prompt 2:

A career in a vocational field relies as much on character and community as it does on technical skill. Reflecting on your journey so far, including any financial or personal hurdles you've faced, describe how you have earned the respect of your peers and instructors through your civic engagement and work ethic. How will this scholarship help you overcome your current financial challenges to become a professional who leads by example in your future trade?

PEO Sisterhood Application

1. *PEO Sisterhood for BTC Female Student*
2. *PEO Sisterhood for WCC Female Student*

Essay Prompt 1:

Write a brief essay (usually 300-500 words) addressing one or more of the following topics.

1. Describe a memorable experience that has had a significant impact on your life and outlook.
2. Explain your passions and interests outside of academics. How have these interests influenced your goals or personal development?
3. Describe a time when you faced adversity and how you persevered.

4. Highlight your leadership roles and community involvement. Explain how your leadership experiences have impacted your community and personal growth.

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Aviation Scholarship Application

1. Walsh Family Aviation Scholarship (\$500)

Essay Prompt 1:

Write a brief essay (usually 300-500 words) addressing one or more of the following topics.

1. Describe a memorable experience that has had a significant impact on your life and outlook.
2. Explain your passions and interests outside of academics. How have these interests influenced your goals or personal development?
3. Describe a time when you faced adversity and how you persevered.
4. Highlight your leadership roles and community involvement. Explain how your leadership experiences have impacted your community and personal growth.

Here's a tip: Tailor your essay to the scholarship's objectives and criteria and make sure to proofread and revise your essay for clarity and coherence. Additionally, be honest and authentic in your writing, as scholarship committees often value genuine and unique perspectives.

Essay Prompt 2:

In 500 words or less, please respond to the following prompt.

What moment or experience ignited your passion for aviation, and how has this passion fueled your journey? How long have you wanted to be a pilot? Where do you plan to complete your aviation education?