



### **Program Announcement**

For individuals interested in attending college or trade school, the UMCU Youth Scholarship program helps those dreams become a reality. Eligible high school seniors planning to continue their education in the Fall of 2026 may enter for a chance to awarded an individual scholarship by submitting an application.

### **Application Submission Period**

Applications from qualified individuals will be accepted beginning on February 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026.

### **Statement of Scholarship Provisions**

- The University of Michigan Credit Union (UMCU) will award ten (10) \$1,000 scholarships to eligible recipients who are selected by UMCU based on their qualifications and responses to the questions listed on the application.
- For the selected individuals, UMCU will provide funds toward tuition and/or other educational expenses at an accredited college or technical school in the United States. The scholarship award will be payable directly to the student. The student will not be required to provide documentation (i.e., receipts, college acceptance letter, billing statement, etc.) to UMCU once the award has been disbursed.
- Ten (10) scholarship awards will be awarded in the spring of 2026. All selected scholarship recipients will be notified of their award within 30 days of the application close date, which is March 31, 2026. All scholarship applicants will be notified of the status (selected or not selected) of their scholarship application within 30 days of the application close date.
- While Scholarship funds are generally deemed to be non-taxable by the IRS, scholarship winners are solely responsible for any/all applicable federal, state, and local taxes.

## Statement of Recipient Requirements

The University of Michigan Credit Union (UMCU) Scholarship program requires that the student:

- Be a Spring 2026 graduating high school senior.
- Be a University of Michigan Credit Union member in good standing at the time the application is submitted. The high school senior student is also deemed eligible to apply and for a scholarship award if their parent(s) or guardian is a member of UMCU in good standing at the time the application is submitted. In that instance, the student understands that he/she must become a member and open a student account on or before the date on which the scholarship award will be presented.
- Intends to attend an accredited college, university, or technical school located in the United States beginning in the 2026/27 academic school year.

Every qualified candidate who submits an application will be considered. However, it is the stated intention of UMCU to review and judge applications using, but not limited to, the student's responses to essay questions which involve the following factors:

- Community activities and involvement
- Work (employment) experiences
- Commitment to learning about financial wellness\*
- Academic achievement
- School participation, including extra curriculars (athletics, drama, music, etc.)

\* It is required that scholarship applicants have read **O.M.G. - Official Money Guide for Teenagers** by authors Susan and Michael Beacham. This book is available for free upon request to members and is provided by UMCU's Financial Education Department. Books can be requested by sending an email to [education@umcu.org](mailto:education@umcu.org).

## Additional Information

- Along with the completed application, applications must also include the following:
  - A letter of reference from one individual who is not part of the applicant's family. Each letter should be between 400-600 words in length and include the individual's full name and contact information.
  - Examples could include a coach, teacher, mentor, employer, faith/non-faith leader, or neighbor.
  - The letter should address the applicant's character, achievements, and impact on others and the community.

## Submissions

- The University of Michigan Credit Union is the sole sponsor of this scholarship program.
- Only one scholarship application will be accepted per student. In the event a student wishes to delete or revise a previously submitted application, he/she must contact UMCU using the information below.
- Upon receipt of a scholarship application, the student will be sent a confirmation email within three business days to the email address indicated on the application.
- All applicants are required to complete and submit their application using the secure submission portal provided by UMCU. The link to access the scholarship application will be made available on our website from February 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026. All questions about the scholarship form and program can be addressed to:
  - **University of Michigan Credit Union**  
**Attention: 2026 Youth Scholarship**  
**340 E. Huron**  
**Ann Arbor, MI 48104**  
**Email – [education@umcu.org](mailto:education@umcu.org)**  
**Phone – (734) 662-8200, extension 2741**

## Privacy Notice

- All personal data collected from entrants and parents and/or legal guardians will solely be used for the purposes of administering the University of Michigan Credit Union Youth Scholarship program.

## Contact Name

- Requests for further information should be directed to Mark Munzenberger, UMCU Financial Education Manager, at [mmunzenberger@umcu.org](mailto:mmunzenberger@umcu.org) or by calling (734) 662-8200, ext. 2741.

## Contents of the Application Form

- Student's Full Name
- Address
- City, State, Zip
- Phone
- Email
- Name and location of high school
- Student - if already a member, date joined UMCU (month, year)
- UMCU account number
- Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s)
- Contact information for Parent(s) or Guardians(s)
- Parent(s) – date joined UMCU (month, year)
- UMCU account number

### Essay Questions (no character limit)

1. Please explain how you have contributed to your local community, including but not limited to experiences in mentoring, child care, volunteering, faith-based/non faith-based initiatives, assisting seniors, promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or neighborhood restoration and beautification efforts.
2. Please describe your academic achievements while in high school, including GPA, significant courses completed, awards received, and overall accomplishments.
3. Please explain your experiences with any/all extra-curricular activities you were involved in either through your school or at an outside organization. This could include, but is not limited to: athletics, drama, music, dance, yearbook, debate, robotics, or any other school-sponsored club.
4. Have you worked while in high school, whether during the summer or throughout the school year? If yes, tell us about your job(s), what you learned, and how you managed your time?
5. What are your future educational plans, once you graduate from high school? What university/college/school are you planning to attend? What occupation/career(s) are you considering? What interests you about this occupation?

6. In your opinion, how important is it that students and young adults get access to reputable and relevant financial education? Please explain.
7. Please use this space for any last comments, thoughts, important accomplishments, etc. for the scholarship reviewers to consider.
8. After reading the **“O.M.G – Official Money Guide for Teenagers”** book, please answer:
  - What is an important money lesson(s) you learned from the book?
  - What will do as a young adult to become financially healthy?

#### **Additional Steps**

- Please attach a letter of support and reference from one, non-related, reference. Each letter should be between 400-600 words in length, and include the individual’s full name, relationship to you, and contact information. Examples would include teachers, counselors, coaches, employers, neighbors, faith-based/non-faith-based leaders, and mentors.

**Student’s Full Name** (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**UMCU Account Number (if already a member)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** (if applicant is under age 18) \_\_\_\_\_

## Legal

By signing and submitting this application, I hereby authorize UMCU to photograph me and consent to the use of my name, image, and likeness in any and all publications, educational materials, research, advertising, news media, video and World Wide Web materials. I understand and agree that such materials shall become and remain the sole property of UMCU and I shall have no right or title to such items. I expressly release UMCU from any liability from any publication of such materials and waive all claims against UMCU arising out of the University of Michigan Credit Union Scholarship program. If applicant is a minor, consent must be agreed to in writing by a parent or legal guardian.

Selection will be made without regard to applicant's race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth, gender identity, physical disability, mental disability, age, citizenship status, genetic information, marital status, veteran status, AIDS/HIV status, height, weight, and misdemeanor arrest record. Applicant or parent must be a member in good standing of the University of Michigan Union.

Applications must be received in the secure portal by 11:59pm on March 31, 2026. UMCU scholarship winners will be selected by April 30, 2026 and funds will be paid directly to the student on or after April 30, 2026. The University of Michigan Credit Union Scholarship program will be administered in the State of Michigan and all applicable federal, state, and local laws will apply. Applicant and/or applicant's parent or legal guardian agrees to accept the decisions of UMCU as final. Applicant and/or applicant's parent or legal guardian agrees to be bound by and comply with all the terms and rules of the University of Michigan Credit Union Scholarship Program and agree that the decisions or interpretation of the University of Michigan Credit Union regarding the terms and rules of the University of Michigan Credit Union Scholarship Program will be final and legally binding in all respects. Applicant and/or applicant's parent or legal guardian also agrees that there is no transfer, assignment, or substitution of the scholarship nor is the scholarship exchangeable for merchandise or services. UMCU employees, board members and their immediate family members are not eligible. UMCU reserves the right to disqualify applicants who make any misrepresentations on their application or supporting documents. All applications and supporting documents will be kept confidential, become the property of the credit union and will not be returned.