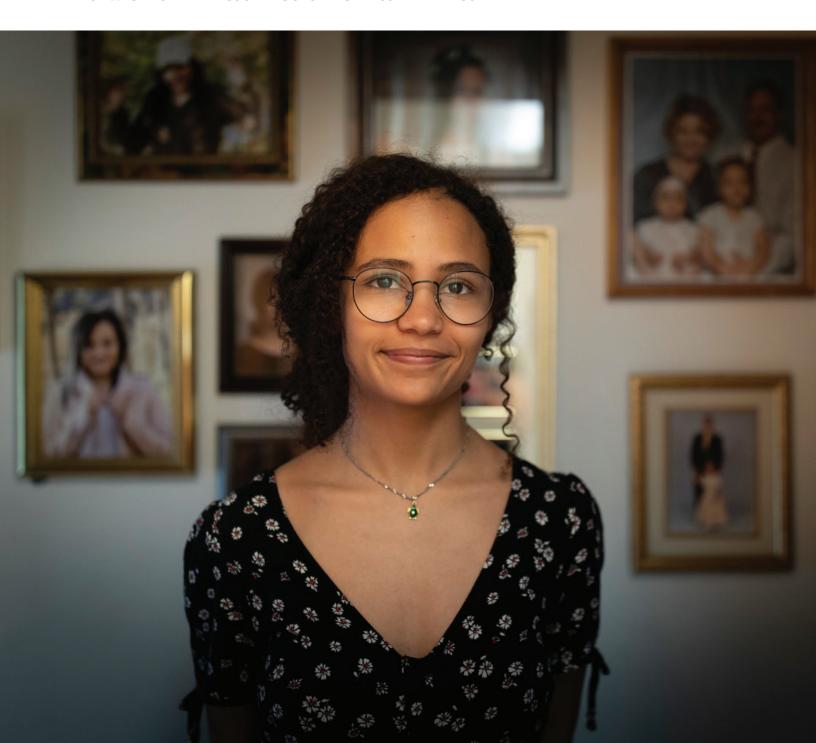
The Power to Shape Futures





THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION AND THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE GUIDE



13 Cover: In 2018, Burrell Area High School graduate Leandra Nealer was awarded the Eugene J. Andolsek Scholarship, which benefits first-generation college students. Nealer is pursuing a chemistry degree at the University of Chicago.

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To learn more about our scholarship program, please visit pittsburghfoundation.org/scholarship.

This handbook provides an overview of the Foundation's scholarship program to assist you in becoming a knowledgeable ambassador for the Foundation and for philanthropy in the Pittsburgh region. Our expert staff will also support you with an annual workshop, webinars and online resources.

Special thanks to the Oregon Community Foundation, for valuable assistance in the creation of this handbook. Photography by Joshua Franzos for The Pittsburgh Foundation. Design by Garrison Hughes.



Quick Facts

Established in 1945.

15th largest community foundation in the nation.

Permanent assets exceed \$1.3 billion.

More than 2,400 funds under management.

A student at Carnegie Mellon commencement. The Foundation manages 16 scholarships connected to this university.

Thank You

Y SERVING ON A SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, or starting a new scholarship fund, you are making a significant difference in the lives of students. The Pittsburgh Foundation's scholarship program, and its affiliate, The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County, relies on hundreds of donors and volunteers to help us award an average of \$2.5 million in scholarships each year.

Donors who value higher education establish funds for many reasons: to honor or memorialize loved ones, to encourage students as they pursue specific fields, to support study at specific institutions that they respect, and to bridge funding gaps for economically disadvantaged students. Scholarships may fund pre-K tuition, music lessons or other enrichment programs for middle and high school students, undergraduate study, or even technical or graduate school.

Scholarships align with the Foundation's mission: improving the quality of life in the Pittsburgh region by evaluating and addressing community issues, promoting responsible philanthropy and connecting donors to the critical needs of the community.



Size and Scope of Our Scholarship Program

THE FOUNDATION'S 320 active scholarship funds grant more than 750 scholarships, providing an average of \$2.5 million in financial assistance to students each year. Our program is one of the nation's largest scholarship programs within a community foundation. Many scholarships may be applied for entirely online through the Foundation's scholarship search website. The average scholarship award for the 2018-2019 academic year was \$3,766, with some of the larger awards ranging from \$15,000 to \$22,000. The total permanent endowment of scholarship funds is \$72 million.

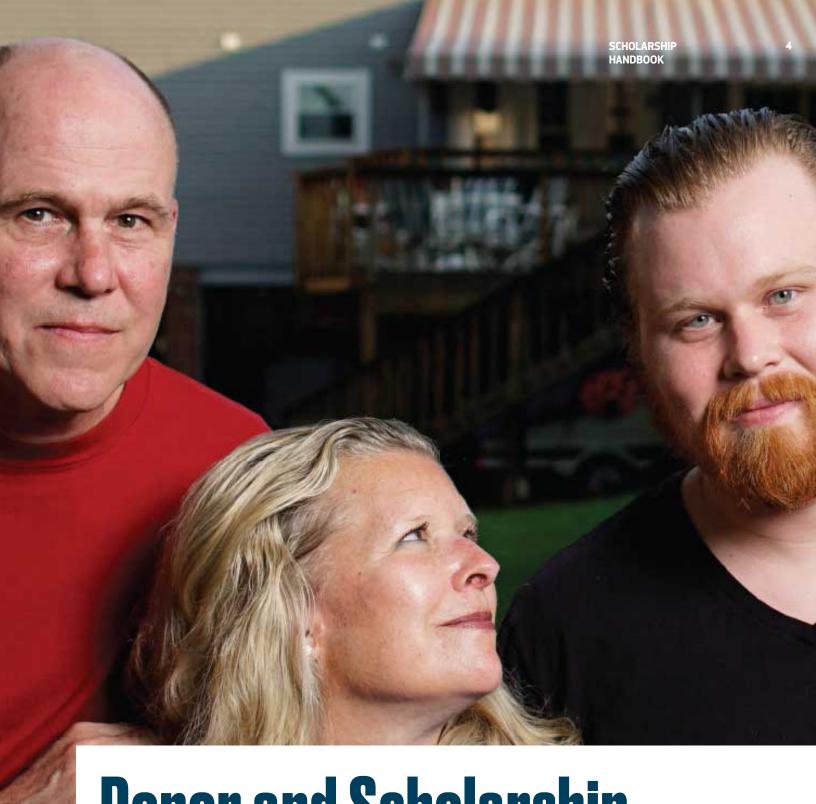
About Community Foundations



A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION is a public charity that administers permanent, named funds established through gifts and bequests from individuals, families, businesses and organizations. Community foundation donors enjoy favorable tax advantages and relief from administrative burdens associated with running a private foundation or establishing an independent nonprofit.

Community foundations make grants — including scholarships — from these funds to qualified charitable, educational and cultural organizations. More than 750 community foundations exist throughout the United States. Community foundations are dynamic and collaborative, bringing together nonprofits, government agencies, donors and the public to discuss and address significant community issues.

Brashear High School students are among those who are eligible to apply for trade and vocational scholarships.



Donor and Scholarship Volunteer Roles

After Spenser Flowers died of an accidental opioid overdose, his parents, Chris and Tina, and brother, Sam, established a scholarship fund to honor his memory. Youth who participate in activities at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Allison Park are eligible.

THE ROLE OF THE DONOR: The donor, through a fund agreement, establishes the scholarship and recommends general eligibility criteria. The donor may choose either to participate in the process as part of a committee or to have no direct involvement.

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Most scholarship funds utilize a committee. It is that committee's responsibility to honor the donor's original intent as spelled out in the formal scholarship fund agreement and to follow scholarship criteria specified by the donor and the law. Every scholarship fund has a checklist that sets forth its specific guidelines and eligibility criteria. Some donors may define their intentions broadly, and Foundation staff may establish criteria to narrow the pool of eligible applicants to an appropriate size.

The Foundation follows best practices for attracting a qualified pool of applicants and adheres to state and federal law regarding review of applications and awarding of scholarship funds.

You can expect the Foundation to provide you with:

- · Orientation and education for serving on a committee.
- Prompt responses to your questions or concerns.
- Guidance in identifying best practices.
- Support throughout the entire scholarship committee process.
- Appreciation and recognition for your work.

The Foundation expects that you will:

- · Represent it professionally and honorably.
- Openly declare any conflicts of interest that may arise.
- Remain objective and nondiscriminatory and utilize established criteria in recommending recipients from an eligible class of applicants.
- Maintain confidentiality and discretion about the Foundation and its donors, grantees and scholarship applicants.
- Respond promptly to communications from the Foundation and provide your current contact information.
- Use the electronic platform provided for application review when applicable.



OCTOBER

The application period for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens.

NOVEMBER

The application period for Foundation scholarships begins around Thanksgiving.

MARCH

Last weekday of the month is the deadline for most postsecondary scholarships.

MARCH TO JUNE

Scholarship committee members convene, discuss applications, develop scholarship award recommendations and forward these recommendations to the Foundation for processing.

FEBRUARY

The last weekday of the month is the deadline for most K-12 non-academic (e.g. music lessons, camp) scholarships and some post-secondary scholarships.

MAY TO JULY

Applicants for scholarships are typically notified now whether or not they have been selected.

AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER

Awards are paid directly to the educational institution, provided the student has submitted all requested documents to the Foundation.

Types and Amounts of Scholarship Awards

AWARD TYPES

SINGLE YEAR: Awards are given for one year only and applicants are not eligible for additional year awards.

REAPPLY AND COMPETE: Recipients are asked to reapply and compete annually, so that the scholarship committee is able to base award decisions on the entire applicant pool, including new and current recipients.

MULTI-YEAR: Recipients are awarded funds for multiple years. They receive an annual request to submit their college transcript, confirm their contact information and the institution they will attend in the coming fall semester. If academic progress is satisfactory, the scholarship is paid. Four years of support is usually the maximum and a best practice for undergraduate students with financial need.









OUR APPLICANTS COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE and have different passions and interests, which contribute to the rich cultural tapestry of our region. The Foundation is committed to equitably assessing each student. Students' backgrounds — the places they come from, their life experiences and the resources available to them — make a difference in how they approach their applications. We take all of these factors into consideration when evaluating applications.

"Equitable" does not necessarily mean "equal." A student who has a 4.0 GPA but does not have to work is not equal to a student who has a 3.0 GPA, works and cares for a sick parent. Applicants each have their own stories and face unique challenges. We urge committees to consider how adversity has helped or hindered each applicant.

We encourage committees to look for applicants who demonstrate a connection between their academic curriculum, volunteer or work experience, and their educational and career goals. Are the applicants involved in opportunities related to their major? Is the applicant involved in long-term community activities?

Grammar is one factor that some committees may consider when reading essays. However, English may not be the applicant's first language. Further, the applicant may have attended a secondary school with minimal resources. A public school may have offered fewer tutoring resources and larger class sizes than a private school.

Also, some committees may notice that pronoun use has shifted in recent years. Many languages do not have gender-specific pronouns. Some applicants may prefer to use "they" as a singular, gender-neutral pronoun. Others may not identify as he/she/they and may use another gender-neutral pronoun such as "ze" or "hir." If the pronoun usage only appears once, it may indicate a grammatical error. If the pronoun is used consistently, it should be considered correct. Applicants should not be discounted for their choice of pronouns.

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEES have a responsibility to honor the donor's intent as outlined in the scholarship criteria. Although criteria may vary from high school attended to selected field of study to robust volunteerism, the two most common criteria are academic merit and financial need.

Academic Merit

The required grade point average (GPA) is always listed in the eligibility criteria. Consider course rigor when evaluating applicants. The standard application includes the applicant's transcripts in addition to both the cumulative unweighted GPA and the cumulative weighted GPA. Weighted GPAs take into consideration if a student has taken advanced placement or honors courses. Transcripts may also show SAT and ACT scores. Please see the sample college transcript on page 15 and sample high school transcript on page 16.

Financial Need

To determine financial need, please refer to the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as reported on the Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR is the report provided to students after they have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is used to calculate a student's EFC, which schools use to determine their financial aid award. For a detailed guide for reading a SAR, please see page 17.

As noted on the FAFSA website, "The Expected Family Contribution is a measure of your family's financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by law. Your family's taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits (such as unemployment or Social Security) are all considered in the formula. Also considered are your family size and the number of family members who will attend college during the year."



Notification of Recipients and Payment of Awards

Judge Mark Hornak, pictured here in Courtroom 6A of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, received the James G. Fulton Internship Scholarship in 1977, which set him on a path toward law and community service.

ONCE SCHOLARSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, the committee chairperson forwards award recommendations to the Foundation, which notifies all applicants of the award decision and requests proof of enrollment from the recipients.

Upon receipt of information from the student, payments are made to the educational institution in the student's name. Payments are typically disbursed in August and September for the coming academic year. Disbursements go directly to the institution.

If a student leaves an educational program, the unused portion of the scholarship is returned to the fund for future use.



Sample Transcripts

The transcript is divided into terms or semesters. It is common for schools to have fall, spring and summer semesters in the academic year. Financial aid is typically divided between the fall and spring terms.

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT Sample Student Student ID: 54321

THE UNIVERSITY

H		/						
	Fall Term 2	016-2017						
Ь	Course		<u>Description</u> <u>Attempted</u>	Earned	Grade	<u>Points</u>		
	BUS	102	BUSINESS ACC 3.00	3.00	A-	11.250		
	BUS	105	ORGANIZATIO 3.00	3.00	B+	9.750		
	COMM	120	SURWEY OF M#3.00	3.00	B+	9.750		
	ECON	110	INTERMEDIATI 3.00	3.00	В	9.000		
S	ENGL	207	AMERICAN LIT 3.00	3.00	Α	12.000		
ä	PSY	250	THEORIES OF F 3.00	3.00	A-	11.250		
F			·/					
ı	Spring Terr	m 2016-2017						
'n	Course		<u>Description</u> <u>Attempted</u>	Earned	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>		
3	BUS	150	METHODS OF 13.00	3.00	A-	11.250		
1	BUS	209	MANAGEMEN 3.00	3.00	A-	11.250		
d	COMM	203	INTERNATION, 3.00	3.00	В	9.000		
ı	ENGL	210	SCIENCE FICTI(3.00	3.00	Α	12.000		
	HON	160	HONORS SERV 3.00	3.00	Α	12.000		
ı	SOC	150	SOCIOLOGICA 3.00	3.00	B+	9.750		
ï								
ı	Summer Term 2016-2017		·					
į	Course		<u>Description</u> <u>Attempted</u>	Earned	Grade	<u>Points</u>		
ì	BIO	206	CELL BIOLOGY 3.00	3.00	В	9.000		
J	SPAN	104	SPANISH I 3.00	3.00	Α	12.000		
i	1		_					
	Fall Term 2	2017-2018						
ı	Course		<u>Description</u> <u>Attempted</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>		
į	BUS	151	QUANTITATIVE 3.00	3.00	B+	9.750		
	BUS	210	STAKEHOLDER 3.00	3.00	Α-	11.250		
1	BUS	212	HUMAN RESOI 3.00	3.00	A-	11.250		
j	BUS	250	INTRO TO MAF 3.00	3.00	Α	12.000		
H	HIST	110	WORLD RELIG 3.00	3.00	В	9.000		
	SPAN	204	SPANISH II 3.00	3.00	A-	11.250		
Í								
1	Undergraduate Career Totals							

Transfer Credits
Transfer Credit from College
Applied Toward School of Arts and Sciences

 Attempted
 Earned
 Points

 Transfer Total: 9.00
 9.00
 0

12.00

Test Credits

Applied Toward School of Arts and Sciences

Fall Term 2015-2016

Course		Description Attempte	<u>Earned</u>	Grade	Points
ECON	100	INTRO TO MIC 3.00	3.00	T	0.000
ENGL	101	COLLEGE CON 3.00	3.00	T	0.000
PSY	105	INTRO TO PSY(3.00	3.00	T	0.000
COMM	101	ORAL COMMU 3.00	3.00	T	0.000

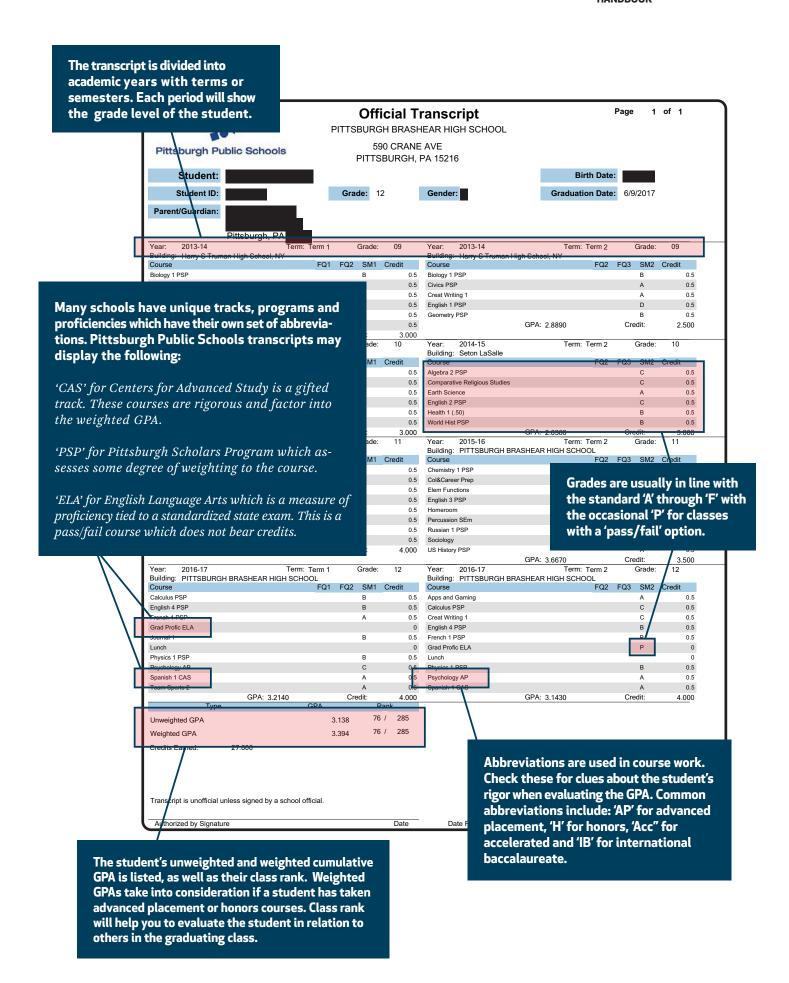
Transfer Total: 12.00

END OF TRANSCIPT

This shows the Cumulative GPA for the entire time the student has been at the institution. Some transcripts will also show the GPA for the semester or term. Both are helpful in tracking trends in academic performance.

Cum GPA:

Every course in the university has a credit value assessed to it. This shows the number of credits that the student scheduled (attempted) as well as the number of credits that the student completed (earned) for each course. When a student earns a 0.00 for a course, it is likely that they withdrew (W) from it or simply removed it from their schedule (U). The earned credits are multiplied against the grade for the semester and assessed points. Points determine the GPA.



SARs and EFCs

THE STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR)

The SAR is a report that each student who completes a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) receives each year. We ask that students seeking financial assistance for college include a copy of their SAR with their scholarship application. It is most often used to determine the level of an applicant's need for financial need-based scholarships, but it can also be used as a tie-breaker for scholarships that do not list financial need as a criterion.

THE ESTIMATED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

The EFC is a measure of the family's financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by law. It considers the family's taxed and untaxed income, assets and benefits (such as unemployment or Social Security). Also considered are the family's size and the number of family members who will attend college during the year.

EFC is expressed as a six-digit number on the SAR (*shown below*) and is the amount that the family can be *reasonably* expected to contribute towards the student's educational costs for one year, although not a guarantee of what the family will actually pay, nor is it a guarantee of any amount of financial aid. The lower the EFC, the more significant the need.

The EFC is the most comprehensive way to measure a student's financial need when used in conjunction with the Estimated Annual College Costs on page 18.

Federal Student Aid FAFSA

2018-2019

Electronic Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR summarizes the information you submitted on your 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Application Receipt Date: 10/05/2017 XXX-XX-1234

Processes Date: 10/10/2017 EFC: 004321

DRN: 1234

Comments About Your Information

Learn about federal tax benefits for education, including the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC).



ESTIMATED ANNUAL COLLEGE COSTS

STANDARD STUDENT BUDGETS FOR PITTSBURGH AREA POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IN 2019-2020

STANDARD STUDENT BUDGETS FOR PITTSBURGH AREA POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IN 2019-2020							
Public Universities	On or off	Tuition &	Room &	Books &	Personal	Transport	TOTAL
	campus?	fees	board	supplies	expenses	expenses	
California University of Pennsylvania	Both	\$11,108	\$10,186	\$1,000	\$2,850	\$1,500	\$26,644
Clarion University	Both	\$11,149	\$12,668	\$1,240	\$2,100	\$1,170	\$28,327
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Both	\$13,354	\$12,744	\$1,100	\$1,580	\$500	\$29,278
Penn State Beaver	Both	\$13,710	\$11,510	\$1,840	\$3,222	\$1,566	\$31,848
Penn State Fayette- Eberly Campus	Off	\$13,710	\$11,884	\$1,840	\$3,222	\$1,566	\$32,222
Penn State Greater Allegheny	Both	\$13,710	\$11,510	\$1,840	\$3,222	\$1,566	\$31,848
Penn State New Kensington	Off	\$13,710	\$11,884	\$1,840	\$3,222	\$1,566	\$32,222
Penn State University Park	Both	\$18,450	\$11,884	\$1,840	\$3,222	\$1,566	\$36,962
Slippery Rock University	Both	\$10,517	\$10,446	\$1,590	\$1,634	\$720	\$24,907
Temple University	Both	\$19,748	\$12,188	\$1,124	\$1,592	\$1,402	\$36,054
University of Pittsburgh	Both	\$19,718	\$11,250	\$755	\$1,832	\$854	\$34,409
University of Pittsburgh Greensburg	Off	\$13,148	n/a	\$785	\$1,775	\$2,308	\$18,016
University of Pittsburgh Johnstown	Both	\$14,136	\$10,860	\$1,000	\$1,767	\$2,386	\$30,149
Community Colleges	On or off	Tuition &	Room &	Books &	Personal	Transport	TOTAL
Community Colleges	campus?	fees	board	supplies	expenses	expenses	TOTAL
Butler County Community College	Off	\$5,100	n/a	\$1,300	n/a	n/a	\$6,400
Community College of Allegheny County	Off	\$4,575	n/a	\$1,000	\$3,352	\$1,064	\$9,991
Community College of Beaver County	Off	\$6,420	n/a	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,530	\$10,350
Westmoreland County Community College	Off	\$5,820	n/a	\$1,600	\$1,000	\$1,080	\$9,500
·							
	On or off	Tuition &	Room &	Books &	Personal	Transport	
Independent Colleges	campus?	fees	board	supplies	expenses	expenses	TOTAL
Allegheny College	Both	\$50,980	\$13,080	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$67,560
Carlow University	Both	\$30,528	\$11,902	\$1,400	\$1,382	\$700	\$45,912
Carnegie Mellon University	Both	\$57,119	\$14,972	\$2,400	n/a	n/a	\$74,491
Chatham Univeristy	Both	\$38,738	\$12,505	\$1,000	\$3,500	\$1,431	\$57,174
Duquesne University	Both	\$39,992	\$13,088	\$1,400	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$56,680
Edinboro University	Both	\$10,543	\$9,750	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$20,293
Gannon University	Both	\$33,226	\$13,530	\$1,096	\$1,360	\$1,222	\$50,434
Geneva College	Both	\$27,670	\$10,530	\$1,100	\$1,150	\$140	\$40,590
Grove City College	Both	\$18,470	\$10,060	\$1,000	\$350	\$500	\$30,380
LaRoche College	Both	\$29,464	\$11,910	\$1,200	\$1,530	\$900	\$45,004
Pittsburgh Technical College*	Both	\$16,640	\$10,580	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$27,220
Point Park University	Both	\$32,750	\$12,440	\$1,200	\$920	\$1,200	\$48,510
Robert Morris University	Both	\$31,200	\$11,780	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$1,308	\$47,788
St. Francis University	Both	\$38,170	\$12,948	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$56,118
Saint Vincent College	Both	\$36,904	\$12,161	\$1,350	\$1,800	n/a	\$52,215
Seton Hill University	Both	\$36,856	\$12,212	\$1,200	\$2,500	\$500	\$53,268
Vet Tech Institute*	Off	\$14,980	n/a	\$860	72,300 n/a	n/a	\$15,840
Washington & Jefferson College	Both	\$49,338	\$13,044	\$800	\$700	\$200	\$64,082
Waynesburg University	Both	\$25,570	\$10,520	\$1,500	\$310	\$600	\$38,500
Westminster College	Both	\$37,300	\$10,320	\$1,700	\$800	n/a	\$51,250
	סטנוו	737,300	711,700	71,700	7000	11/ 0	731,230

Note: These estimates are for informational purposes only. They are based on full-time Pa. resident enrollment and will vary depending on program of study, courseload, dependency status and housing situation. Costs will be higher for out-of-state residents. Source: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org. Estimates marked * are from cost estimators provided by those schools.

APPENDIX

Online Resources



FAFSA4caster - A U.S. Department of Education tool that estimates the type and amount of financial aid that a student or family can receive.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Federal Student Aid - U.S. Department of Education information on preparing for education beyond high school. **www.studentaid.gov**

College Navigator - Information on scholarships and other financial aid.

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

FinAid - A comprehensive source of financial aid information and tools, including an Expected Family Contribution calculator. **www.finaid.org**

Pennsylvania Higher Education Access Authority - State agency for student aid organizations, serving millions of students and thousands of schools.

www.pheaa.org



Your Responsibilities



POSITION DESCRIPTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION was established in 1945 to improve lives of those living in the greater Pittsburgh region through the power of philanthropy. The Foundation's assets, now more than \$1.3 billion, represent the contributions of more than 2,400 individuals and families. The Foundation awards more than \$47 million in grants each year, with an average of \$2.5 million supporting Foundation-awarded scholarships.

When donors create a scholarship fund at the Foundation, they may choose whether or not to participate in the selection process. In either case, scholarship committees are forwarded to the Foundation's board of directors for approval.

Scholarship committee members must:

- Conform to the Pension Protection Act of 2006 requirements, which state that a donor and his or her relatives and/or employees may not constitute a majority of the committee or otherwise control the committee.
- Declare any conflicts of interest that arise when an applicant under consideration is related to you. No person may serve on a scholarship selection committee if, during that year, a relative of the person is an applicant for consideration by that committee. Although not mandatory, we recommend committee members recuse themselves if they have a personal relationship with an applicant. A good rule of thumb is to recuse if the committee member might purchase a graduation card for the applicant.
- Remain objective and nondiscriminatory throughout the selection process.
- Protect the privacy of students by keeping their information confidential.



In 2018, the Greensburg College Club celebrates 100 years of offering college scholarships to students in Westmoreland County.

Scholarship committee members must:

- Ensure that the donor's intent, as spelled out in the eligibility criteria, is honored during the scholarship deliberation and recommendation process.
- Develop methods for rating candidates utilizing the stated criteria and electronic materials, where applicable.
- Maintain good communication and forward recommendations to the Foundation in a timely manner.

Time commitment required

- This varies according to the size of the scholarship program, but is typically no more than 10 hours per year per fund.
- Although timing may vary depending on the scholarship, committees are most active in March to June.
- Committee members are expected to review all candidates ahead of their committee deliberation meeting where they may meet in person or via conference call.