

## Fresh Start Scholarship Application

**DEADLINE:** Completed application must be submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup>

*Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted for consideration.*

**All applicants will be notified by email on or before July 31<sup>st</sup> if they have received an award.**

### Eligibility:

Candidates must:

- Be female.
- Be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Be a resident of Delaware OR be currently employed in Delaware for at least the past 12 months.
- Be at least 20 years of age and have a high school diploma or G.E.D.
- Have had at least a two-year break in education either after completing high school or during post-secondary (college) studies. **\*NOTE:** Students who have previously earned a bachelor's degree are not eligible to apply.
- Submit an official college transcript that shows at minimum a 2.0 average GPA if you are currently enrolled in college or if you have attended college in the past.
- Be admitted to an accredited Delaware college in a two or four year degree program at the undergraduate level.  
**\*NOTE:** You will be asked to confirm acceptance into designated college with your student ID number.
- Submit one (1) letter of recommendation from a college representative, a nonprofit/government agency or an employer. Friends and relatives will not be considered.
- Identify two (2) people (NON-family members or friends) to be called as a reference. One can be same person who submits your letter of recommendation.
- Certify financial need by completing all areas listed under "Financial Data". All information submitted will be kept confidential.
- Submit a completed application including a personal statement and letter of recommendation.  
**\*NOTE:** You may submit your application and letter of recommendation separately.
- Be available for a brief ZOOM interview if selected as a scholarship finalist.
- If approved as a Fresh Start Scholar award winner, you must attend (1) scholar orientation session in August/ September.

**Award:** The number and amount of the awards will be determined annually prior to the Fall semester but will not exceed the costs of tuition, fees, books and other direct educational expenses. Award will be split into two equal checks and paid directly to the college prior to the beginning of each semester (Fall and Spring of upcoming academic year).

Applications are evaluated on the information supplied; therefore, answer all questions as completely as possible. *Incomplete application will not be considered.* Awards are granted without regard to race, marital status, age, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Applications must be filled out completely and sent as a PDF. No other formats will be accepted. Any incomplete applications will not be considered. If a section does not apply, please fill in "N/A" so we know your application is complete. *Do not leave any section blank or your application will be considered incomplete.*

## PERSONAL DATA

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ (use a number that we can easily contact you for your follow up interview)

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

(use an email that we can easily contact you for your follow up interview)

**Birthdate:** \_\_\_\_\_ (if awarded, so your school can match up your information)

**Last 4-digits of your SSN ONLY:** \_\_\_\_\_ (so your school can match up your information)

**Marital Status:** (please check one)

Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Dependents** \_\_\_\_\_

Please only list dependents. You will give the total number of people in your household later in the "Financial Section"

**Age of Dependents** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*The above information will be used to contact you with time sensitive information, please provide current contact information. If handwritten, please print clearly.**

## EDUCATION DATA

**Name of College or University** you are attending or plan to attend during the upcoming academic year (starting Fall of this year). If attending a different College or University in the Spring, please note that here as well.

**Fall:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spring:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student ID #:** \_\_\_\_\_ (you must be enrolled to be awarded)

**Campus:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree Expected:** Bachelors \_\_\_\_\_ Associates \_\_\_\_\_

**Major:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are currently enrolled/ have been enrolled within the last 10 years:**

**Number of Credits you will have completed by the end of May (application deadline):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Credits remaining BEFORE graduation?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Anticipated graduation date:** Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cumulative GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_ as of: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ (insert month and year)

(You must attach or mail OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT by application deadline to be considered a completed application)



## ESTIMATED ANNUAL COSTS

How many credits (not classes) do you plan to take in the fall semester? \_\_\_\_\_

How many credits (not classes) do you plan to take in the spring semester? \_\_\_\_\_

Upcoming Fall Semester: tuition \$ \_\_\_\_\_ fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ books \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Upcoming Spring Semester: tuition \$ \_\_\_\_\_ fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ books \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed a FASFA form with your college Financial Aid Department? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Have you applied for or been awarded other scholarships or grants (including the Pell Grant, SEED, etc.) for the upcoming academic year? (All applicants are encouraged to apply for Financial Aid from their institution.)

Name of Award/ Grant/ Loan/ Etc.	Amount	Check One
_____	\$ _____	Granted _____ Pending _____
_____	\$ _____	Granted _____ Pending _____

**\*Please list any additional awards on separate page and include them in your personal statement below.**

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Describe your work experience for the past two years (if homemaker, please indicate). Indicate dates of employment for each job and approximate number of hours worked each week. List amounts earned at each job.

Employer/Position	Description of job	From – To	Hours/wk.	Hourly wage

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

**Please be specific as possible with your personal statement.** Attach a separate page (PDF or Word Doc) but needs to be submitted with your application to be considered complete.

Please submit an essay that answers the following questions to help us get to know you better:

- How long has it been since you've been in school on a full-time basis and how have you spent your time?
- What barriers or challenges have you faced in trying to continue your education?
- What do you plan to do with the higher education that you are seeking?
- How will it improve your life and opportunities for yourself and your family, if appropriate?
- If you have children, do you have assistance with their care while you're working on your studies?

**Please note that your personal statement is an important factor in the selection process.**

## FINANCIAL DATA

**To be considered for an award, the section below must be filled out completely.** Any incomplete application will not be considered. **If a section does not apply, please fill in "N/A" so we know your application is complete.** Do not leave any section blank.

**All tax information will be for preceding year.**

**Check here if you will not file and are not required to file a current U.S. Income Tax Return.** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL Annual Income of Applicant** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL Annual Income of Spouse** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Total Income earned should be reported individually for both the applicant and applicant's spouse, if married.)*

**Yearly Untaxed Income and Benefits** (Please check all that apply)

*(Untaxed Income and Benefits include any other income or benefits of applicant and applicant's spouse, if married, not included in the adjusted gross income figure. Do not include untaxed contributions to retirement plans.)*

Child Support \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other - Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Rent/ Mortgage** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

*(Housing Costs include monthly rent or mortgage payments less than any amount paid through Section 8 funding.)*

**Total Cash, Checking, Savings, Cash Value of Stocks, etc.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Total Cash, Checking, Savings, Cash Value of Stocks, etc. includes liquid assets that can be used for educational purposes. Not included are IRA, 401K, or other retirement plans.)*

**Number of people in your household:** \_\_\_\_\_

include:

- yourself and your spouse if you have one
- any of your children that still live at home
- other people if they now live with you and you provide more than half of their support and will continue to provide more than half of their support. Please help us understand you better by explaining your role in this person's life.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCES

Your references **CANNOT** be family members. Please inform the references listed below that someone from the Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation will be calling them in the month of June, so they are prepared to receive our call. Please list current and accurate information.

**1. Name of Reference:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship to applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Name of Reference:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship to applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## CONSENT

I, the undersigned applicant, hereby agree that, should I be awarded the *Fresh Start Scholarship, The Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation, Inc.* may use my name and picture in a press release and related publicity announcing the award. It is understood that the press release may include the qualifications required for the award and disclosure of the social service agency and/or college representative that endorsed the candidate's application, in addition to some biographical information from the applicant's application. I certify that the essay is my personal work and creation and I agree to provide proof of information I have given on this form, including a copy of my U.S. Income Tax form, if requested. *Falsification of information may result in termination of any scholarship granted.*

**Applicant's Name (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Signature Required** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Must sign document to be considered a completed application\***

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## THANK YOU

Who can we thank for referring you to our scholarship program? \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE:** Completed application must be submitted by May 15<sup>TH</sup> EACH YEAR.

Late applications will not be accepted for consideration. Incomplete applications will not be accepted for consideration. Applications received in any other format than PDF will not be accepted for consideration. If a section does not apply, please fill in "N/A" so we know your application is complete. Do not leave any section blank or your application will not be accepted for consideration.

**AWARD:** All applicants will be notified via email on or before July 31<sup>st</sup> each year. The number and amount of the awards will be determined annually prior to the Fall semester but will in no event exceed the costs of tuition, fees, books and other direct educational expenses. Award will be split into two equal checks and paid directly to the college prior to the beginning of each semester (Fall and Spring of upcoming academic year).

If you have questions concerning the Fresh Start application, please call 302-397-3440 or email FreshStartApply@gmail.com

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applications do not have to be submitted in full. However, YOU are responsible for obtaining all required documents and submitting them to Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation by the deadline of May 15<sup>th</sup> annually.

### Do you have all of your documents?

All of the following materials must be submitted by the deadline of May 15<sup>th</sup>:

Email to FreshStartApply@gmail.com

- Completed application including ALL financial data and signed consent
- Personal statement
- One (1) Letter of Recommendation from a college representative, a nonprofit/government agency or an employer
- Two (2) Persons listed as references with accurate contact information
- Official** copy of college transcripts

***Incomplete Applications will not be considered.***