



## **Ebell/Flint Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions 2026**

### **GENERAL**

**Q: Can any student apply for an Ebell of Los Angeles scholarship?**

*A: No. An applicant must be currently enrolled full time as an undergraduate in an accredited college or university, located within Los Angeles County, and must be a permanent resident of Los Angeles County. Please read the eligibility questions below for more information.*

**Q. Can applicants apply anytime during the school year?**

*A: No. The application opens on April 2 and closes May 15. This is the only time scholarship applications are accepted.*

**Q. Is the Ebell scholarship awarded for one year?**

*A. It depends. Ebell scholarships are awarded for a maximum of three years beginning in the sophomore year. Scholars who apply as freshmen and start their scholarship in their sophomore year, will receive a scholarship for three years, as long as they continue to meet our eligibility requirements. Scholars who begin their scholarship in their junior year, will receive it for two years and applicants who apply for their senior year will receive it for one year.*

**Q. How much is the scholarship award?**

*A. Students who attend 4-year colleges and universities receive \$5,000 per year, and students who attend 2-year colleges receive \$3,000 per year. If a community college student transfers from a 2-year to a 4-year school within Los Angeles County, the amount of the scholarship is automatically increased.*

**Q. Generally, what are the requirements to receive a scholarship?**

*A. Overall, an applicant should demonstrate:*

- *Full time enrollment in an accredited Los Angeles County college or university*
- *Los Angeles County permanent residency*
- *Academic achievement by attaining and maintaining a 3.25 cumulative GPA or higher*
- *Leadership and involvement in community service and extracurricular activities as described in personal essays, letters of recommendation, and an in-person interview*
- *Financial need supported by financial resources documentation*

## ELIGIBILITY

### Residency Questions

**Q: I have U.S. permanent residency status and/or a green card; can I apply for a scholarship?**

*A: Yes. U.S. citizens and U.S. Permanent Residents, including Green Card holders, may apply.*

**Q: Can international students apply for the Ebell/Flint Scholarship?**

*A: No. To be eligible, applicants must meet US citizenship/Permanent Resident status and LA County permanent residency requirements.*

**Q: I'm from out of Los Angeles County (either out of state or a different California county) and am attending college in LA County. Am I eligible for a scholarship?**

*A: It depends. Ebell Scholars must be permanent residents of LA County. If you or your parents are paying "out-of-state" tuition, you are not eligible. If your parent(s) does not reside in LA County and claims you as a dependent on their tax returns, you are not eligible. You might qualify if you are financially independent and have lived in LA County for at least 366 continuous days at time of application. These instances are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.*

**Q: Can I apply if I am attending a Los Angeles satellite campus of a college or university based out of state?**

*A: No. Courses from a satellite college or university that is based out of state do not meet our eligibility requirements.*

### Other Eligibility Questions

**Q: Can high school students apply for funding before they start college/university?**

*A: No. Applicants must be at least a college freshman with at least one full time semester completed when they apply.*

**Q: Can I apply for the Ebell Scholarship if I am a college sophomore or junior?**

*A: Yes. We accept applications from college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.*

**Q: I have a bachelor's degree that I received years ago and now am returning to school for an undergraduate degree in another field. Can I apply?**

*A: No. We do not fund applicants who already have a 4-year undergraduate bachelor's degree.*

**Q: Does the Ebell fund graduate education?**

*A: No. Only undergraduate coursework is funded. If you are enrolled in a dual undergraduate/graduate degree program, this might affect your scholarship eligibility. Please contact the Ebell Scholarship office to clarify your situation.*

**Q. I am a dual enrollment student in which I am a high school senior but taking college classes as well. Can I apply?**

*A. No. You must be a full-time college student to apply.*

**Q: I'm getting my BA degree through an accredited online university. Can I apply?**

*A: It depends. The degree must be generated by a non-profit accredited Los Angeles County university, and you must be a Los Angeles County resident. See below for more information.*

## **Accreditation and Non-profit Status**

**Q: Are students who attend any college or university in Los Angeles County eligible to apply?**

*A: No. Your college or university must be non-profit and accredited by either WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) or ACCJC (Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges). NOTE: ACCJC is a division of WASC.*

*To check your 4-year school's accreditation status: <https://www.wscuc.org/directory/>*

*To check your 2-year school's accreditation status: <https://accjc.org/find-an-institution/>*

## **Full-Time Status**

**Q: What does full-time status mean for applicants?**

*A: You must be currently enrolled as a full-time student when you apply for the Ebell/Flint Scholarship. A full-time program means 24 units if on the semester system or 36 units if on the quarter system for your school's current academic year. If you are currently a part-time student, we encourage you to apply when you become a full-time student.*

**Q: If I plan to study abroad for one semester, can I maintain my scholarship?**

*A: Yes. If your academic institution grants credit for your time away and you continue to meet the Ebell/Flint Scholarship eligibility requirements, you may study abroad.*

**Q: Are online or other courses from a different institution than the one I am attending count toward my full-time status?**

*A: It depends on the college or university from which you receive your degree. If your school accepts online coursework from another institution towards your degree, the online courses will be accepted.*

**Q: I work full-time and am enrolled in a weekend undergraduate program. Can I apply?**

*A: It depends. Students must be enrolled in a full-time program to receive a scholarship. Clarify your status with your institution and provide documentation of full-time status in the application by uploading your official transcript that shows total units.*

**Q: I have a learning or other documented disability and take fewer than the required number of units each semester/term stipulated in Ebell's Terms and Conditions. Do I qualify?**

*A: It depends. Numerous educational institutions provide definitions of full-time status for students with disabilities. Clarify your status with your institution and provide documentation of full-time status in the application.*

## **Transfer Students**

**Q: Can I apply for a scholarship if I am transferring from a two-year community college but am waiting to see which college in Los Angeles County will accept me?**

A: Yes. We often have transfer students apply for Ebell/Flint Scholarships whose acceptance at a four-year university or college is still pending at the time of application. On your application indicate which colleges in Los Angeles County you have applied to for transfer. You need to advise us once you have been accepted to the four-year institution. Proof of your acceptance and your new financial aid award letter are required.

**Q. I attend a community college and am not sure which four-year university I will be accepted and attend. Some are in Los Angeles County, and some are not. Can I apply?**

A: Yes. However, if you decide to attend an institution outside of Los Angeles County, we cannot award you a scholarship. Please update us as soon as you know which institution you will attend.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### Application Deadline and Process

**Q: How do I submit my application?**

A: All applications must be submitted via the Scholarship Application portal which is accessible via [https://webportalapp.com/sp/signup/ebell\\_flint\\_scholarship](https://webportalapp.com/sp/signup/ebell_flint_scholarship). Be sure to review the Terms and Conditions to confirm you meet each of the required eligibility qualifications.

**Q: What is the application deadline?**

A: Completing the online application is a two-stage process.

1. The deadline for the main application, including academic qualifications, official transcripts, essays, and issuance of requests for reference letters is May 15th.
2. The follow-up Financial Resources information and all letters of reference must be received no later than June 10th.
3. An application will not be reviewed until both stages have been completed.

**Q: What information and documentation will I be required to submit?**

A: You will create or submit the following:

- Login and profile
- Three essays related to academic and career goals and community service
- Contact information for three letters of reference, which will be submitted through the portal
- All official post-secondary transcripts
- Financial information including your full FAFSA Submission Summary, the school's Cost of Attendance from the previous fall, your most current Financial Aid Award letter, and, if transferring, both your letter of acceptance and the school's Financial Aid Award letter.

Once all required documentation has been submitted, the Homepage "Submit Application" button will turn green. Be sure to confirm all your entries are correct before clicking Submit.

### Application Content

**Q. Does the Ebell Scholarship Program have an AI policy?**

A.: Yes. The Scholarship Program prohibits presenting any part of an essay as one's own if it was generated entirely or partially by AI. All application essays should be written by students using their own authentic voice

and should depict their unique life experiences. We want to know who you are. Use of AI to generate essay contents may result in disqualification from the scholarship program.

**Q: Should I include work study on my application?**

A: Yes. Under the Employment & Internships section of your application please list your work study or any work experience (for the last two years) both paid and unpaid.

**Q: My degree requires that I complete a practicum. Should I list this under Community Service/Extracurricular activities on my application?**

A: No. We consider required practicums to be part of your academic achievements. Please list required practicums which you are currently taking (or which you took last year) when discussing your career preparation in Essay Question #1.

**Q: How does the Ebell define Community Service/Extracurricular and Leadership?**

A: Community service includes direct service work and/or advocacy work to affect positive change. Service areas include but are not limited to your neighborhood, religious, environmental, education or social service organizations as well as cultural institutions.

- Extracurricular activities include activities that are not required for school credit and are undertaken outside of academic school hours. This may include required help with siblings or other family members. Other examples include participation on a school team, club or student government.
- Leadership involves increased responsibility, problem solving, initiating, planning, delegating, representing or oversight of a project, event, or people. It does not necessarily require a named position (e.g. President).

**Q. The third essay question asks me to choose between writing about a personal challenge or an important lived experience. Is one better to choose than the other?**

A. No. It's important that you choose the prompt that allows you to express unique aspects and experiences not already covered in your application that will help evaluators get to know you better. Choose the one that is best for you.

## Letters of Recommendation

**Q: Am I limited to 3 letters of recommendation?**

A: Yes. All applicants are requested to submit 3 letters of recommendation (LOR). Three LOR are the maximum.

**Q: Who should write my recommendations?**

A: Select recommenders who know you well and can provide specific information about your relationship: e.g. professors, coaches, and employers. Recommendations from friends, family members or peers who have worked with you will not be accepted.

**Q. Am I expected to upload the reference letters?**

A. No. You provide the names and contact information for the three references within your application. The application portal will send the email reference requests on your behalf. The email will include a brief description of the scholarship, a personal message from you, and a link for the reference to submit the reference letter. You will receive a message when a reference has submitted a letter, but you will not be able to view the letter itself.

*If you do not receive a message, your reference has not responded. You will be able to send a reminder. Occasionally reference requests go to Spam folders. It is your responsibility to follow up with your references. We strongly recommend you contact each reference in advance to confirm their email and willingness to respond no later than June 10.*

**Q. Can I submit reference letters I have used for other applications?**

*A. No. All reference letters are expected to be current and focused on addressing the Ebell/Flint scholarship requirements. References should be uploaded directly into the Application portal.*

**Q. Do all the reference letters need to be submitted before the May 15th deadline?**

*A. No. You must make the reference request via the portal before submitting the application. The reference is given some additional time beyond the deadline to respond. You can issue a reminder and, if necessary, replace a reference who has not responded. Please monitor your references. We will not evaluate incomplete applications; we need all three letters of recommendation.*

## **Official Transcripts**

**Q: What is an official transcript? Does a copy of my transcript output from my student portal qualify?**

*A: No. Official transcripts include the college's seal, registrar's signature, and are issued in pdf format. Many schools contract with 3rd party services, (e.g., Parchment or the Student Clearinghouse), to supply the official transcripts. While convenient, a portal download is an "unofficial" transcript, which does not qualify.*

**Q: Can my official transcript be submitted after the deadline?**

*A: No. All official transcripts must be uploaded into the application by May 15, 2026.*

**Q: Can my school submit my official transcript directly to The Ebell?**

*A: No. We expect the applicant to obtain an official transcript from the school, upload the pdf into their application file, and enter their cumulative GPA into the record. If your school's policy prohibits the issuance of an official transcript directly to the student, transcripts can be sent to: [scholarshipapplications@ebellofla.org](mailto:scholarshipapplications@ebellofla.org). Plan ahead: you will not be able to submit your application until the transcript is uploaded!*

**Q: As a transfer student, do I need to provide my official transcript from the community college(s) I previously attended as well as the official transcript from my current institution?**

*A: Yes. We need official transcripts from all colleges/universities that you have attended.*

**Q: There is a hold on my school account from unpaid tuition. The registrar won't release my official transcript until at least part of the outstanding balance is paid. My application is complete other than my official transcript. Can I submit an unofficial transcript now with my application and submit an official one as soon as I can?**

*A: Occasionally applicants submit an unofficial transcript as a placeholder for the official transcript. However, the Scholarship Committee will not review the application until the official transcript is received. Once issued, the official transcripts must be submitted to [scholarshipapplication@ebellofla.org](mailto:scholarshipapplication@ebellofla.org) as soon as possible.*

## Financial Documents

### **Q. What financial documents do I need to submit?**

A. You will need to collect and submit:

- Your most recent FAFSA Submission Summary, which includes your Student Aid Index
- Cost of Attendance at your university
- Financial Aid Award Letter (what your university is offering you)

You will also need to tell us if you have any additional hardships.

### **Q. What is the FAFSA Submission Summary?**

A: The FAFSA Submission Summary summarizes the information you reported on your FAFSA as well as your eligibility for student loans, your Student Aid Index (SAI) and whether you have been selected for verification. The FAFSA Submission Summary is issued as a pdf. We require the full document: an excerpt will not be accepted. See <https://studentaid.gov/help/afsa-submission-summary>

### **Q. I have my 2025 FAFSA Submission Summary: will this qualify?**

A. No. Only a 2026 FAFSA Submission Summary meets the requirement. If your FAFSA application is delayed due to an appeal or other extenuating circumstances, you may submit a 2025 FAFSA summary as a placeholder, along with an explanation to: [scholarshipapplication@ebellofla.org](mailto:scholarshipapplication@ebellofla.org)

### **Q: Where do I find the Cost of Attendance (COA) for my school?**

A: The Cost of Attendance can be found on your school website. It varies depending on your housing situation (e.g. on campus, commuter student etc.) Many schools include the COA on your Financial Aid Award letter. Be sure to send us the COA that matches with your housing situation.

### **Q: What is the Financial Aid Award Letter?**

A: The Financial Aid Award letter spells out the details of your financial aid package. For transfer students, it will usually accompany the Letter of Acceptance. For students continuing at their same school, this is the school Financial Aid Office's announcement of the costs and aid/grant support you will receive for the next academic year. This documentation is required to complete the Financial Resources information.

### **Q: I am attending a community college and have been accepted to several four-year universities. I have not heard from my #1 transfer choice which is in LA County. What financial aid information should I submit?**

A: When you receive the acceptance letter from your transfer choice, you need to upload the acceptance letter, the total Cost of Attendance and your financial award letter to the Financial Resources section within the application portal. Your application will not be considered complete without this information and must be received by June 10, 2026.

For further clarification, email us at [ScholarshipApplication@ebellofla.org](mailto:ScholarshipApplication@ebellofla.org)

Location: 743 South Lucerne Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90005