



SCHOLARSHIP GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Description: Six scholarships are awarded to provide financial assistance to **2026 graduating high school seniors** whose parents/guardians or the student are members of First Financial Credit Union.

Additional scholarships are awarded to continue providing financial assistance to **past First Financial scholarship recipients** who have maintained a 2.0 GPA and are current members or whose parents/guardians are members of First Financial Credit Union. Past recipients that remain full-time students are eligible for a total of five (5) consecutive years while earning an Associate, Bachelor, or Master degree.

All scholarships are to be used to attend a **New Mexico institution** of higher learning.

Basis of Awards: The scholarships will be awarded based on the financial need of the student applying.

Value of Awards: Each scholarship is for \$1,500.00 to be awarded at \$750.00 per semester for two (2) semesters.

Eligibility: Parent/guardian or student must be a member of First Financial Credit Union. Immediate family members of volunteers and staff are not eligible.

Student must be a graduating senior in good standing, planning to attend a two (2) or four (4) year accredited New Mexico College or University, or any prior year First Financial scholarship recipient currently enrolled at a New Mexico institution of higher learning.

Student must be enrolled as a full-time student with a minimum of 12 hours.

Student must have at least a 2.0 average.

Application

Procedures: The following items must be returned with the application and will be held in strict confidentiality. **Applications may not be considered if any of the items below are missing or are incomplete.** If you have any questions regarding application process, contact Julie Zerbe at (505) 462-1117 or (800) 342-8298 ext. 1117.

NO TWO-SIDED COPIES OR STAPLES ON ANY SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS PLEASE!

CHECK EACH ITEM AS COMPLETED:

- ☐ Completed application form.
- ☐ A personal letter from the applicant indicating why assistance is needed.
- ☐ Three (3) letters of reference. All should be from a non-relative and from an instructor, counselor, principal or employer.
- ☐ Transcript of previous high school or institution of higher learning, including latest semester.
- ☐ Divorced individuals or parents must provide a copy of divorce decree and/or child support information.
- ☐ List any other financial assistance that the student has applied for or is receiving (FAFSA, Pell grants, student loans, other scholarships, etc.).
- ☐ List any unusual financial circumstances, i.e., medical bills, unusually large debt, childcare, etc., and include copy of bills or proof of unusual needs.
- ☐ A COPY OF PARENT'S AND SELF (if applicable) **W2s FOR THE YEAR 2025 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.**
- ☐ A COPY OF PARENT'S AND SELF (if applicable) **ENTIRE TAX FORM FOR THE YEAR 2025 AS SUBMITTED TO THE IRS, INCLUDING ALL SCHEDULES AND OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION NOTED ABOVE, MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026.**

Income Verification Requirements:

Student **must** provide copies of parent(s) and individual income tax returns (1040). **These must be signed copies of what was sent to the IRS. Student must also provide supporting documents for any income reported on tax forms.** Please provide any of the following that apply to you. If you have income that is not listed below, please provide supporting documentation for that income also.

- **W2s** to verify wages.
- **1099-SSA** to verify social security benefits.
- **1099-INT** to verify interest income.
- **1099-R** to verify retirement pensions and annuities.
- **1099-DIV** to verify dividend income.
- **1099-G** to verify unemployment compensation.
- **1099-MISC** to verify miscellaneous income, if any.
- **Schedule B**
- **Schedule C or C-EZ** to verify business income or loss.
- **Schedule D** to verify capital gain or loss.
- **Schedule E** to verify rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc.
- **Form 4797** to verify other gains or losses.

****Applications may not be considered if any of the above items are missing or are incomplete.****

Application Deadline: Postmarked no later than **FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026.**

Mailing Address: Scholarship Committee/Julie Zerbe
First Financial Credit Union
PO Box 25587
Albuquerque, NM 87125-0587



Release of Information:

I hereby give permission to the First Financial Scholarship Committee to access and review my (or my child's) pertinent school records.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

**2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

(MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026)

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY, STATE, ZIP:		
DOB:	SS#:	CELL PH#: HOME PH#: WORK PH#:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:		
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S):	PARENT/GUARDIAN CU ACCT #	STUDENT CU ACCOUNT #
SCHOOL NOW ATTENDING:		
WHAT COLLEGE ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND?	1 st CHOICE:	2 nd CHOICE:
IN WHAT FIELD DO YOU PLAN TO MAJOR?		
<p>LIST ANY ACADEMIC HONORS, SCHOOL CONNECTED CLUBS, OR OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN (INCLUDE FRESHMAN YEAR).</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

NO TWO-SIDED COPIES OR STAPLES ON ANY SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS