

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Eligibility and Applying

- 1) Q. What are the scholarship requirements?
- 2) Q. Who is eligible?
- 3) Q. How are award recipients selected?
- 4) Q. What do I need to do to apply for a scholarship?
- 5) Q. How long do I have to apply for the Temecula Dollars for Scholars scholarships?

## Completing your Profile

- 6) Q. Is the Student Profile all that I need to complete in order to be eligible for scholarships offered by Temecula Dollars for Scholars?
- 7) Q. What is included in the Student Profile?
- 8) Q. When should I start working on my Student Profile?
- 9) Q. How long should my essays be?
- 10) Q. What do students need to do regarding community service hours for the TDFS process?
- 11) Q. How do you submit community service hours?
- 12) Q. When completing the TDFS application, do students input each individual community service hour or enter them collectively, in categories?
- 13) Q. How should things like "National Honor Society" be submitted – under "Awards" or under "Activities"?
- 14) Q. Do I need to have a Social Security (SSN) card to apply?
- 15) Q. Can I edit my Student Profile after I have completed it?
- 16) Q. Can I edit my Student Profile and responses to scholarship specific questions once I have submitted it to be considered for a specific scholarship?
- 17) Q. Do I have to answer all of the questions on my Student Profile?
- 18) Q. What do the \*star and \*\*stars next to certain questions on the Student Profile section mean?
- 19) Do students need more than one letter of recommendation?
- 20) Q. Do transcripts get submitted after first semester grades are posted?
- 21) Q. What SAT score does the student input when he/she has taken the test multiple times?

- 22) Q. Does TDFS have a preferred method of communicating financial info (FAFSA or CSS)?
- 23) Q. Do I have to finish the application in one sitting?
- 24) Q. My Student Profile is 100% complete in all of the sections listed. What should I do next?

### **Searching for Scholarships**

- 25) Q. I visited the “My Scholarships” section on the Dashboard and selected “search for new scholarships” for which I qualify. Why am I asked the same questions multiple times? Do I need to answer all of the questions again?
- 26) Q. I have selected “search for new scholarships” once already. Should I continue to select it throughout the application process?
- 27) Q. How will I know when I receive a scholarship from Temecula Dollars for Scholars or other organizations?

### **Claiming your scholarship**

- 28) Q. What do I need to do to claim my scholarship award?
- 29) Q. What can I use as proof of enrollment when I submit my Scholarship Acknowledgement Form?

### **Additional Help**

- 30) Q. I have read all of the information provided and I still need help. Who should I contact?

## Answers

### 1) Q. What are the scholarship requirements?

A. Each scholarship will have a description of its specific requirements and award criteria. Applicants may apply for any award that they are eligible for and meet the criteria for. While Scholarship America will provide information to organizations with other requirements, Temecula Dollars for Scholars and our local donors require grades 9 - 12 cumulative, weighted GPA of 3.0.

[Back to Top](#)

### 2) Q. Who is eligible?

A. Any graduating senior who attends a public high school in the Temecula Valley Unified School District is eligible to participate in the Temecula Dollars for Scholars® program. Awards are for students who will be enrolling at an accredited 2 or 4-year college/university or a program of vocational training.

[Back to Top](#)

### 3) Q. How are award recipients selected?

A. Temecula Dollars for Scholars offers two kinds of awards. A local business, organization or individual gives the first kind of award. Those awards generally have their own recipient guidelines. The other kind is a scholarship that Temecula Dollars for Scholars administers directly. In both cases, the Awards Committee reviews anonymous information about each applicant and scores applications according to a standard set of guidelines. All award selections are based on merit, financial need, or a ranked combination of need and merit. All awards will be determined on an anonymous and non-discriminatory basis.

Recipients receiving a scholarship are invited to an awards ceremony in the spring before graduation.

[Back to Top](#)

### 4) Q. What do I need to do to apply for a scholarship?

A. You need to create and complete an online Student Profile, search frequently for scholarships, and submit your Student Profile for each individual scholarship for which you are eligible and want to apply. You *must* have parent consent if you are under 18, you *must* have searched for scholarships, and you *must* have submitted your student profile for any scholarships you are eligible for in order to be considered. Simply completing a student profile does not mean you are applying for scholarships. After completing your profile you **MUST** search for scholarships and **SUBMIT** your profile to each individual scholarship you are interested in.

[Back to Top](#)

**5) Q. How long do I have to apply for the Temecula Dollars for Scholars scholarships?**

**A.** The period for applying for scholarships is from January 1st to February 1st of the current scholarship year. Profiles should be complete and students **MUST** submit applications by February 1st at 11:59 P.M. The process to apply for scholarships offered by Temecula Dollars for Scholars involves two requirements:

A completed Student Profile including the Goals and Aspirations essay with the Parent, Counselor, and Recommender sections complete; *AND Submitting* your complete Student Profile for scholarships for which you are eligible, and for which you want to apply. Simply completing your profile does not mean you are applying. You **MUST SEARCH** for scholarships and **SUBMIT** your profile/application to each scholarship you are interested in applying to.

Both of the requirements must be completed by the scholarship deadline (closing date), so it is advisable that you begin the process immediately.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Completing your Profile - Answers**

**6) Q. Is the Student Profile all that I need to complete in order to be eligible for scholarships offered by Temecula Dollars for Scholars?**

**A.** Yes. The Student Profile is your biographical and academic information that determines your eligibility for various scholarships. Your Student Profile matches you to scholarships for which you are eligible. You can then choose those scholarships for which you want to submit your Student Profile in order to be considered for that specific award.

[Back to Top](#)

**7) Q. What is included in the Student Profile?**

**A.** The Student Profile is composed of several sections including basic information, school information, academic information, supporting material, and activities, awards and employment. In order to have a fully complete Student Profile, you must complete each of the \* sections and \*\* sections to the best of your ability. When each section is complete, your Student Dashboard will show 100% by each section. It is strongly recommended that you attempt to fully complete each section in your Student Profile to reach 100% in order to be matched to as many scholarships as possible.

[Back to Top](#)

**8) Q. When should I start working on my Student Profile?**

**A.** It is highly recommended that you start working on your Student Profile right away. The process to complete the Student Profile involves gathering a great amount of personal information, and requires your parents, counselors, and recommender to provide information on your behalf. Therefore, it is recommended that you work to have your Student Profile fully complete, with the parent, counselor, and reference sections requested no later than January 1st of the current scholarship year. By completing your Student Profile by that date, you will have approximately four weeks remaining to submit your Student Profile for scholarships for which you are eligible and for which you want to apply.

[Back to Top](#)

**9) Q. How long should my essays be?**

**A.** There are two essay questions and you should write between 300-500 words per question. Be sure to address the specific question and not just write a generic response. (We recommend composing your essay in a word document where you are able to spell check and then copying and pasting it into your profile).

[Back to Top](#)

**10) Q. What do students need to do regarding community service hours for the TDFS process?**

**A.** Because the process is totally automated, the community service hours must be submitted in time to appear on the first semester (fall) transcript. If students do not have a copy of their community service hours performed, they will need to request a copy to help record information on the TDFS application. The total number of service hours on the application should match what is on the student's fall transcript. All community service hours must be submitted in order to appear on the fall transcript.

[Back to Top](#)

**11) Q. How do you submit community service hours?**

**A.** As soon as the student has completed the number of community service hours desired, he/she submits the standard (commonly-used) Community Service Form(s) to their counseling office. As long as those forms have been completed and signed appropriately, the Counseling Staff will enter the cumulative community service hours into the student's record, where they will

appear on the transcript. In other words, students submit community service hours to Counseling as they've always done, and as long as hours are submitted before the January 10th deadline, they will appear on the first-semester transcript. (NOTE: This deadline was extended to allow students to volunteer over Winter Break, if desired.)

[Back to Top](#)

**12) Q. When completing the TDFS application, do students input each individual community service hour or enter them collectively, in categories?**

**A.** If you volunteered for different organizations and performed separate duties for each, enter each organization separately.

However, community service hours can be grouped by organization or event.

*For example*, if the student worked the Temecula Valley Woman's Club Holiday Home Tour all three years of high school, that event can be entered once under that activity/organization. If the student worked different events/activities for the same organization, students will want to enter them once under that organization and then provide a detailed description regarding what type of service they performed.

[Back to Top](#)

**13) Q. How should things like "National Honor Society" be submitted – under "Awards" or under "Activities"?**

**A.** The "Awards" section of the application is for monetary "Financial" awards (i.e., if the student has received monies and/or some other kind of assistance to help pay for their education) and for awards received that are not as a result of being a part of a club or organization in school or community related activities. National Honor Society would fall under Awards category because students do not participate in activities at school or in the community for the National Honor Society, but have received the honor as a result of their involvement in other activities and academic accomplishments. All other awards should be listed in the "Activities" section of the application when inputting awards for a particular activity/club/organization.

[Back to Top](#)

**14) Q. Do I need to have a Social Security (SSN) card to apply?**

**A.** It is implied that you have to have a Social Security card, but it is not required. The SSN will not impact the selection process.

[Back to Top](#)

**15) Q. Can I edit my Student Profile after I have completed it?**

**A.** Yes. You can edit or change your Student Profile at any time.

[Back to Top](#)

**16) Q. Can I edit my Student Profile and responses to scholarship specific questions once I have submitted it to be considered for a specific scholarship?**

**A.** You can edit your Student Profile and your responses to any scholarship specific questions at any time *before you hit* the “submit” button. Once you submit your Student Profile and responses for that specific scholarship you cannot make any changes. Although you can edit your Student Profile and scholarship specific questions at any time before you hit “**submit**,” it is critical that you select “**submit**” for each scholarship specific award by the application deadline (February 1st of the current scholarship year).

[Back to Top](#)

**17) Q. Do I have to answer all of the questions on my Student Profile?**

**A.** No, but it is highly recommended that you complete all the questions to the best of your ability. The more fields that you complete, the more likely it is that you will qualify for multiple scholarships from Temecula Dollars for Scholars and the national database.

[Back to Top](#)

**18) Q. What do the stars next to certain questions on the Student Profile section mean?**

**A.** You must complete all the double starred (\*\*) items in order to submit the form and you must complete all of the single starred (\*) items to move your progress towards 100%. It is highly recommended that you complete all single starred (\*) questions that you feel comfortable answering in order to ensure your Student Profile is fully complete and accurate.

[Back to Top](#)

**19) Q. Do students need more than one letter of recommendation?**

**A.** Only if the particular scholarship the student is applying for requests an additional letter of recommendation. The student will see any additional requirements when applying for select scholarships.



[Back to Top](#)

**20) Q. Do transcripts get submitted after first semester grades are posted?**

**A.** Yes. As long as requested via your school's Registrar, transcripts will be uploaded for the TDFS application process after first-semester grades are finalized.

[Back to Top](#)

**21) Q. What SAT score does the student input when he/she has taken the test multiple times?**

**A.** Only one score is required; the student should enter the best (highest) score attained.

[Back to Top](#)

**22) Q. Does TDFS have a preferred method of communicating financial info (FAFSA or CSS)?**

**A.** Not at this time. Because TDFS scholarships are based on merit, not financial need, TDFS does not require it or have a preference; however, national scholarships may require submission of financial info. NOTE: For most federal, state, and college-provided student financial aid, completion of a FAFSA is the first step. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is filed with the US Department of Education, but it is not only for federally sponsored student aid. The College Scholarship Service Profile (CSS Profile) is an application distributed by the [College Board](#) is for nonfederal financial aid from almost 400 colleges/scholarship programs.

[Back to Top](#)

**23) Q. Do I have to finish the application all at once in one sitting?**

**A.** No. You can take as long as you like but you will have to log back in if you have been inactive for an extended period of time. Be sure you save your work along the way and have your Student Profile complete with the Financial Information, Transcript Information, and Recommendation sections submitted well in advance of the application deadline. After your Student Profile is complete, you will need to also complete any scholarship specific questions for which you are eligible and want to apply.



If you want to check your progress towards the completion of your Student Profile, you can click on “**Back to Dashboard**” at the top right of your screen to see the next section to work on, and those sections that are not 100% complete. You can also review the “**My Information**” section on the far left side of the page to see the sections of the Student Profile that are required.

In order for your Student Profile to be fully complete, the Dashboard should show the following under the My Information section of your Student Dashboard:

Basic & Additional Info	100% done
School Info	100% done
Academic Info	100% done
Supporting	100% done
Activities, Awards, Employment	100% done

**Financial Information** from Parent or Guardian: **Submitted** (*ONLY if you are completing Method 3*, otherwise it will say incomplete)

**Transcript Information** from Counselor: **Submitted**

**Recommendation** from Counselor or other Reference: **Submitted**

[Back to Top](#)

**24) Q. My Student Profile is 100% complete in all of the sections listed. What should I do next?**

**A.** Once your Student Profile shows that you are 100% complete in all of the required sections, you need to visit the “My Scholarships” section located at the bottom of the of the Student Dashboard page. You will then select “search for new scholarships.” By selecting “search for new scholarships” you will be matched with scholarships for which you may qualify.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Searching for Scholarships – Answers**

**25) Q. I visited the “My Scholarships” section on the Dashboard and selected “search for new scholarships” to search for scholarship I may qualify for. Sometimes I am prompted to ask questions. Do I need to answer the questions?**

A. Scholarships offered by Temecula Dollars for Scholars may require a separate answer to determine your eligibility for that scholarship. Although you may see the same question over and over, each question is being used to determine your eligibility for a separate scholarship.

[Back to Top](#)

**26) Q. I have selected “search for new scholarships” once already. Should I continue to select it *throughout* the application process?**

A. Yes. By selecting “search for new scholarships” you have the opportunity to re-review those scholarships that you have already qualified for, the ones you have already applied for, and new scholarships that you may want to consider. In addition, by selecting “search for new scholarships” throughout the application process, the system will check to see if there are any new national scholarships that were recently posted.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Receiving and Claiming your scholarship - Answers**

**27) Q. When will I know if I have been selected to receive a scholarship from Temecula Dollars for Scholars or another organization?**

A. Recipients who have been chosen to receive an award from Temecula Dollars for Scholars (TDFS) will either be notified at their high school Senior Awards program OR receive an invitation to the Temecula Dollars for Scholars Awards Ceremony in May. Recipients will be given an Award Letter and it is critical that the directions included on the Award Letter given at the Senior Awards program or Temecula Dollars for Scholars Award Night be followed in order to acknowledge and claim your scholarship.

If you received a notification on your dashboard that you were awarded a scholarship from another organization other than TDFS, it is important that you acknowledge their scholarship and/or contact the organization immediately to inquire about their claiming and awarding procedures as it may vary from organization to organization.

[Back to Top](#)

**28) Q. What do I need to do to claim my scholarship award?**

A. There are two steps in order for us to process your award:

**First**, you will need to login to your dashboard and **acknowledge** receipt of your scholarship. You will have from June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup> to acknowledge your award. **Second**, you will need to complete the Award Claim Form by December 31st of the year you received the scholarship in order for you to receive your scholarship monies. Send your Claim Form to the following address:

Temecula Dollars for Scholars  
31350 Rancho Vista Roads  
Temecula, CA 92592

Revised 11/18/17  
TDFS Website Doc

[Back to Top](#)

**29) Q. What can I use as proof of enrollment?**

Receipt of payment for tuition/fees from the admissions office  
Receipt of payment for campus residence hall/student housing  
Final class schedule  
Copy of student identification card  
Letter of verification of enrollment from the Admissions Office (not a provisional acceptance letter)

The following documents are *not acceptable* as proof of enrollment:

Provisional letter of acceptance:

Preliminary class schedule

Billing statement (unless it references that charges have been paid [Back to Top](#))

**30) Q. I have read all of the information provided and I still need help. Who should I contact?**

**A.** The person you should contact is dependent on the type of question you have. Please refer to the contacts listed below.

Eligibility question

CONTACT: Temecula Dollars for Scholars  
By Email—TemeculaDFS@gmail.com

School specific question

CONTACT: Your assigned school counselor

Technical question regarding the online Student Profile

CONTACT: Scholarship America

Use the grey and white “Support” button located on the left side of the screen on our Temecula Dollars for Scholars website

[Back to Top](#)