Fairmont Dollars for Scholars
Application Process 2024
DEADLINE – April 1, 2024
ACCEPTANCE DEADLINE – July 31, 2024

Dollars for Scholars applications are only accepted electronically.

<u>Process for Applying for the first time:</u>

Website is www.fairmont.dollarsforscholars.org

1) Go to Students & Parents in upper left hand corner
2) Click to Login
3) Complete your Login & Password (we recommend using an email address you check often that is NOT your apps.fairmont email address. You can apply and receive up to four awards from us, so we need to communicate with you after you graduate.)
3) Complete your Profile
4) Complete all areas under the <u>My Information</u> column.
- GPA- ==FHS uses a weighted Cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.== Make sure you DO NOT enter your GPA into the section that asks for the high school or college GPA SCALE.
- GPA-Students DO NOT need to enter Grade 9, 10, 11 & 12 GPA data. Students only need to enter their cumulative GPA and college GPA if a current college student.
- Class Rank – ==FHS calculates Class Rank with "integers" not percentages.==
- Activities – complete as thoroughly as you can. Enter start and end dates.
  High School Students - Activities would be from grades 8-12
  College Students – Use College Activities & High School Activities for the most recent four years
  - Enter Name and Activity
    - I.e. Activity Name: Basketball, Activity: Basketball
  - Activity Description
    - Enter as thoroughly as you can, include information like Letter winner, Captain, All State, Special Recognitions (MVP, Hustle award)
  - Total Hours spent on this activity per year:
    - Estimate the number of hours spent in this activity
      - I.e. 180 hours/year for Basketball
Parent and Financial Information – We use FAFSA EFC (estimated family contribution)
  - Students/parents can enter their EFC from their student aid report which is received after completing the FAFSA. Upload a copy of the first page of your student aid report to the Documents section of your profile.

** Dollars for Scholars highly recommends that you complete the FAFSA and enter your EFC into your application. However, as of 2019, it will no longer be a required field. Many of our scholarships are need-based so it is to your advantage to complete the FAFSA part.
** Due to COVID-19, Fairmont Dollars for Scholars will, at least for the time being, NOT be using ACT scores as one of our scoring criteria as so many students have been unable to take the test.

- Transcripts--High School Students – send transcript request to the administrative assistant for the high school counseling office. The counseling staff will verify your GPA; they may not add your transcript. Do not panic! We will get the information we need from them IF you have sent a transcript request. The main office number is 507-238-4411. Then 4, then 3 to get the counseling office admin assistant.
- College Students – you can upload a copy of your up-to-date transcript including your cumulative GPA or you can request a transcript from the registrar's office at your college. Make sure to name the uploaded file "additional transcript" so the system recognizes it. ==The transcript does NOT have to be official.== It should be in a universal file type like .jpg or .doc.
- References: ask your reference FIRST if they are willing to fill out the form. Then make sure you have their correct email address entered. Your reference may need to check the junk email folder for the email.

The reference form is an eight-question multiple-choice form. It's very quick. We cannot accept references in any other form. **Your reference cannot be a relative.**

- Essays:
    - Unusual Circumstances is optional. If you have not had any circumstances that negatively impacted your school, work, or activities, you can leave this blank.
    - Goals and Aspirations: Be sure to complete this section. There is no length requirement. You just need to write enough to be thorough. Be specific about your goals and aspirations in the one to ten year range, especially.

5) <mark>When you have completed the **My Information** section, you MUST click on **My Scholarships AND SUBMIT your name to the awards to which you want to apply**.</mark>
    - Answer the Custom Eligibility Questions & Submit
    - This will bring you to a screen that shows which scholarships you are eligible for.
    - We recommend applying to all scholarships you are eligible for.

6) <mark>**Refer back to My Scholarships frequently as new scholarships are added which you may be eligible for. IF YOU DO NOT click on "my scholarships" and if you do NOT submit your application to those scholarships, we CANNOT consider you for a scholarship!**</mark>

Dollars for Scholars offers a workshop in early February. Information on this workshop can be obtained from the Community Ed and Recreation office or the counseling office. This workshop will help you navigate the application process so you receive the most points possible for your aspirations, activities and academics. If you have not yet created a partial student profile on fairmont.dollarsforscholars.org before this event, make sure you have the needed information to access an email account during the class (such as email web address and password) as you will need to verify your new student profile before working on it. This class is for Fairmont Area High School juniors, seniors or graduates who plan on completing a Fairmont Dollars for Scholars application.

For returning applicants:
You do not need to enter all of the information you did last year; the system has kept a record of all that you submitted. It does NOT keep what others entered like references or transcripts. You do need to update information. Be sure to update:

- Your school and highest grade completed information, address, email, phone
- Financial information. Students/parents can enter their EFC from their student aid report which is received after completing the FAFSA. Upload a copy of the first page of your student aid report to the Documents section of your profile.
- Transcripts—upload your most current grades AND update your GPA in the scholastic performance section. Make sure to name the uploaded file "additional transcript" so the system recognizes it. It does NOT need to be an official transcript.
- References—make sure you have their address correct; they may need to check their junk email folder. Your reference cannot be a relative. The reference must be submitted using the link sent to the reference.
- Essays-
    - Unusual circumstances: Be sure to complete this section. Be thorough as your points are based on your response. If you have not had any circumstances that negatively impacted your school, work, or activities, you can leave this blank.
    - Re-read your goals and aspirations. Has anything changed?
- Your grade level
- Any new activities from the past 12 months.

<mark>When you have completed the **My Information** section, you MUST click on **My Scholarships AND SUBMIT your name to the awards to which you want to apply**.</mark>

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