



Last Dollar Scholarship Application Process

February 2016

Thank you for your interest in the Goodwin Meissner Family Foundation (GMFF) scholarship. We call it the Last Dollar Scholarship because it provides those “last dollars” you’ll need to close the gap between the funds you’ve been able to raise and the **total cost of attendance** at your chosen university.

Total cost of attendance, or TCA, is what the financial aid office at your university estimates it costs to attend their school including tuition, fees, living expenses, etc.

The money you’ve been able to raise should address some of the TCA, but in most cases will not cover it all. Sources of funding you might have raised should include one or more of the following: savings, a Pell Grant, low-interest loans, work study, part-time work off campus or other scholarships and grants.

We work through partners to identify scholarship candidates, they include:

Appalachian Access, NCSU Student Services (including Pack Promise), NCSU Upward Bound and Talent Search, Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative (STEM program) and Student U

Minimum requirements to apply:

1. qualify for a federal Pell Grant using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (fafsa.ed.gov) through the US Department of Education,
2. be willing to commit to a minimum of eight (8) hours per semester of volunteer work, and
3. be a student in good standing at your school with no disciplinary and/or academic citations
4. be willing to complete a personal interview

How do you apply for the Last Dollar Scholarship?

First, we prefer that you apply online through our website at www.gmff.foundation. The online application will be available by March 1st, 2016. In the meantime, you can download a paper version of the application at www.gmff.foundation/application/. You can use the paper version to prepare your personal statements and gather the other requirements, such as your FAFSA, transcripts and recommendation letter writers.

*****Applications are due by midnight EST on April 1st*****

Step 1: Complete the application and submit by midnight on April 1st.

Step 2: You will be notified by April 15th of your status via email

Step 3: If selected, you'll be asked to interview with one or more of the GMFF board members. Interviews are 30 minutes long and we will schedule them at your current school or another convenient location coordinated through our partner organizations

Step 4: You will be notified by May 1st of your status via email

Step 5: If you receive funds from GMFF, we will ask that you have the financial aid office of your university complete a financial aid release statement. This form confirms the dollars you've been able to raise, the TCA and the gap that you need to address. We require this form by June 15th

Step 6: Once we receive your financial aid release form, GMFF will notify you of the scholarship amount and mail a check for first semester to your university by July 15th. The second semester payment will be mailed when we've confirmed that you remain a student in good standing - usually by December 31st.

Interviewing Tips

During and after college, you'll find yourself needing to interview for a number of opportunities like scholarships, internships, jobs, or graduate school. Here are a few tips that will help you succeed:

First Impressions Matter

Get a good night's sleep and dress neatly for the interview. Your attire doesn't have to be fancy, but you should choose something conservative and appropriate for business. Demonstrate confidence with a firm handshake and by making eye contact when you meet your interviewer.

Know Your Audience

Know the interviewer and/or the organization. Do some homework on the background of your interviewer through LinkedIn and other professional networks. Read the organization's web site. You might even review the prolog in the company's annual report if it's publicly traded.

Be ready to ask meaningful questions that will demonstrate you've researched the company and are serious about your potential future as a part of it. Here are some examples:

- What is the training program for new employees?
- What would be my responsibilities? What future roles in the company might this job lead to?
- How long have you been with the company and what is it about the company that makes you stay?
- What do you see as the company's biggest market opportunities in the next 3-5 years?
- How would you describe the culture at your company?
- What are the next steps in the [hiring] process?
- What are typical career paths at the company and what career development opportunities (like leadership or skills training) are offered?

Know Yourself

Make sure you can communicate how well you've prepared and what you have to offer. Think through how your life and college experiences demonstrate your character and/or fit with your desired career. What stories will you use to convey your drive, enthusiasm and/or leadership qualities? Rehearse your answers to "typical" questions, like those listed below. Use your experiences to provide emphasis for your answers through story-telling.

- How has your college experience prepared you for this opportunity?
- What are your career goals in the next 5 years?
- Why did you choose your major?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Describe a challenge you've faced and how you handled it? Would you do anything differently?
- Describe a risk you've taken and talk about why it was risky and what you gained (or lost) by taking the risk.
- What makes a great leader and why?
- Who do you most admire and why?

Practice

Have an experienced interview (an advisor, professor, etc) conduct a mock interview with you from start to finish and use their feedback to improve your skills.

Follow-up!

Make sure you have contact information for all of your interviewers before you leave, including email and physical addresses. Follow-up right away with a thank you e-mail or letter. A hand-written note will make you stand out from a crowded field of emails. In your note, you can reaffirm your interest in the position (or scholarship) and mention the qualities you have that make you a good fit.