



Last Dollar Scholarship Application Guide for New Applicants

2018 Cycle

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** (TCA) 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 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 look for students who have made a significant effort in trying to address the TCA, and consider small, low-interest loans an important component of that effort.

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

Appalachian Access, ASU Upward Bound, NCSU Student Services (including Pack Promise), NCSU Upward Bound and Talent Search, and The Wake Promise

The minimum requirements to apply are that you:

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

Selection Criteria:

The GMFF board of directors will consider the following in selecting scholarship recipients:

1. Financial need as determined by the financial information on this application
2. Prior academic performance, community service and personal achievements
3. Commitment and demonstrated potential for success in college, technical or vocational school
4. Participate in our partner programs (see www.gmff.foundation)

Application Checklist:

1. Completed online scholarship application
2. Confirmation of your Pell Grant Eligibility from the FASFA application process in .pdf format, see page 4 for an example.
3. An official transcript of grades for the applicant's most recently completed coursework. This may include high school transcripts, GED score report or any postsecondary transcripts.
4. Copy of the "Total Cost of Attendance" for the college(s) to which you are applying. For more information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid of the college(s) to which you are applying
5. At least one, and no more than two, recommendation letters from one of: teacher, counselor, coach, school administrator, employer, minister, community leader or other non-related adult
6. A personal statement in which you express your position on topics 1 and 2 below:
 1. Describe how obtaining additional education or a college degree fits with your future goals for a professional, technical or trade career.
 2. Explain what has led you to your decision to obtain a college degree and/or trade skill certification? This could be something in your background, a significant person in your life, or work experience that has influenced you.

Following are the steps required in our process:

*****Applications are due by midnight EST on April 1st 2018*****

Step 1: Complete the online application (<http://www.gmff.foundation/application/>) and submit by midnight EST on April 1st, 2018. GMFF accepts only applications submitted through our online application.

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. See page 5 for interviewing tips.

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. The second semester payment will be mailed when we've confirmed that you remain a student in good standing and you've made progress on your 8 hours of community service - usually by mid-December.

How do you apply for the Last Dollar Scholarship?

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Last Dollar Scholarship Application

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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.

In addition to minimum requirements, GMFF gives preference to participants with our [partners' programs](#). The minimum requirements to apply are that you:

1) qualify for a federal Pell Grant using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The screenshot shows a web interface with two main sections: LOGIN and SIGNUP. The LOGIN section has fields for Email (filled with 'ldmeiss@gmail.com') and Password (filled with '*****'), a 'Login' button, and a 'Forgot Password?' link. The SIGNUP section has fields for Email, Password, and Confirm Password, and a 'Signup' button. At the bottom, it says 'POWERED BY wizehive'.

Create a user ID and password on the first screen. The application will save automatically for you and you'll be able to return to finish it through midnight April 1st.

The screenshot shows a home screen with a message: 'Your application is saved as a draft.' Below this are four large buttons: 'Create or Edit Application', 'Print', 'Add or Edit Recommendation Letter Requests (Required for new scholarship applicants only)', and 'Logout'.

Once you log in after you've created an ID and password, this is your home screen. From here you can return to your application, print your application and send recommendation letter requests to your recommendation writers

The screenshot shows a bottom navigation bar with two buttons: 'Save Draft' and 'Submit'.

Save and Submit buttons are at the bottom of every screen in the application, you can also 'Return to Menu' from here.

[Return to Menu](#)

3/5/2016

Processed Information - FAFSA on the Web - Federal Student Aid

Processed Information

Federal Student Aid FAFSASM



Form Approved
OMB No. [redacted]
App. Exp. 12/31/2017

2016-2017 Electronic Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR summarizes the information you submitted on your 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Application Receipt Date:	01/01/2016	XXX-XX- [redacted]	02
Processed Date:	01/09/2016	EFC: 000000	
		DRN: 5090	



Comments About Your Information

Learn about [federal tax benefits for education](#), including the *American Opportunity Tax Credit* (AOTC).

Based on the information we have on record for you, your EFC is 000000. You may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant and other federal student aid. Your school will use your EFC to determine your financial aid eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work-study, and possible funding from your state and school.

There is a limit to the total amount of Federal Pell Grants that a student may receive, which is the equivalent of 6 school years. Once a total amount of Pell Grant eligibility has been received, a student can no longer receive Pell Grant aid.

WHAT YOU MUST DO NOW (Use the checklist below to make sure that all of your issues are resolved.)

Be sure to review the items marked with a  and make any corrections if necessary by clicking 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page.

We assumed you did not file and will not file a 2015 income tax return (Item 32). Review this item.

If you need to make corrections to your information, click 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page using your FSA ID. If you need additional help with your SAR, contact your school's financial aid office or click the 'Help' icon on the FAFSA home page. If your mailing address or e-mail address changes, you can make the correction online.

Based on your EFC of 000000, you may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant of up to \$5,775 for the 2016-2017 school year provided you have not met or exceeded the lifetime limit established for the Federal Pell Grant program.

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.