



# The Sunflower INITIATIVE

## The Scholarship

The Sunflower Initiative will award another Harriet Fitzgerald Scholarship in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2024-2025 academic year to a woman who **in the Fall 2024 term will begin attending an undergraduate women's college in the United States.**

**Completion of Application materials:** during the month of January, applicants can check on the status of their application materials — which items we have and which we do not yet have — in order to remind letter-writers or counselors who must submit letters and transcripts to us directly but have not yet done so. The confirmation email that applicants receive after submitting their application form will contain instructions about how to create a password to check on the progress of their application toward completion.

**Deadline:** We must receive applications, confidential letters of recommendation uploaded at our web site by recommenders, transcripts uploaded at our web site by high school counselors or registrars, and official reports of standardized test scores by **February 1, 2024**, by 11:59 pm EST.

**Notification:** The Scholarship Selection Committee will notify the winner of the award in April 2024.

**Payment:** The Sunflower Initiative pays the scholarship directly to the college each term after confirming the Scholar's enrollment.

**Renewal:** The Harriet Fitzgerald Scholarship is awarded for one year with the possibility of renewal each year based on continued high performance.

## Who is eligible?

The Scholarship Committee welcomes applications from highly motivated women who are passionate about learning and desire to attend a woman's college in the United States. The successful candidate must

- possess a stellar high school record,
- provide outstanding references,
- have a sincere desire to contribute to society, and show evidence of strong character and leadership qualities, as well as breadth and depth of interests

For best consideration, applicants should have

- an unweighted GPA of at least a 3.7 and
- either a composite SAT score of at least 1350 or a composite ACT score of at least 27, with no single ACT score below 25.
- International students should be able to arrange to take the SAT or ACT in their home countries.
- **For applications due on 1 February 2024, test scores are optional but we welcome them if available.**

**All women expecting to start their first full term of college at an undergraduate women's college in the Fall 2024 term are eligible to apply.** These include

- graduating high school seniors,
- those who have taken a gap year since graduating from high school,
- women who matriculated at college but left prior to the completion of their first semester and now plan to start college again, and
- dual enrollment students who have taken a college course or two early while completing high school.

**Women who have already completed one or more college semesters are not eligible.**



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## What components are required for a complete application?

- an application form completed online at our website, including:
  - ◊ an essay [**in PDF format**] uploaded within the online application form,
  - ◊ responses to questions about your activities, achievements, awards, and so on, which you may also supply by uploading an optional résumé [**also in PDF format**] within the online application form.
- three (3) confidential letters of recommendation ***on letterhead, dated, and in PDF format***. Please ask for letters from people who understand the Scholarship and why you are applying, and who appreciate that we rely on fairly detailed letters that help us get to know the applicant. Standardized letters (for all college applications, for instance) are not as helpful.
  - ◊ At least two of the letters should come from people who can comment on your academic qualifications (teachers and counselors);
  - ◊ The third letter may come someone who can also comment on your extracurricular activities and personal character (this could also be a teacher or counselor, but perhaps a Community member, club advisor, employer, or other non-family member).
  - ◊ Each letter **must be submitted on-line to our website directly by the letter-writer.**
- Official high school or GED transcripts uploaded at our website **by your high school counselor or registrar**. We will need **Fall 2023 grades and Spring 2024 course schedules** as well, so your counselor will need to add report cards or schedules in addition, depending on your school's procedures and labels.
- **Optional for applications due on 1 February 2024:** Official reports of SAT (code 7230) or ACT (code 1715) scores should be sent **electronically by the testing service or uploaded by your high school counselor or registrar.**
- Incomplete applications and late materials will not be considered.

## How should one gather application materials?

**Applicants may not send letters, test scores, or transcripts to us themselves.**

- As is standard with official documents where authenticity and confidentiality are important, we will accept these materials only directly from letter-writers, testing services, or high school counselors or registrars.
- Letter-writers must **use official letterhead** to verify the authenticity of their affiliation, and both recommenders and counselors must submit documents **in PDF format** for our readers.

**Applicants are responsible for checking with the other parties who are uploading and sending** test scores, transcripts, and letters to make sure that these materials are sent before the deadline.

- Because letter-writers, counselors, registrars, and testing services are extremely busy during the college application season, **applicants should make their requests several weeks ahead of the due date, and check afterward with senders to make sure that they have sent the necessary documents.**
- From early January until the February 1 deadline, applicants will be able to learn which of their supplementary materials we have received up to that point. We will update this information every two or three days until the deadline of February 1.

## What is The Sunflower Initiative's selection timetable?

We review all applications during February through early March. Semifinalists are identified and notified **by email**, in mid-March. Finalists are selected and notified in mid-to-late March and interviewed in late March. Winners are selected in early April so they can incorporate news of the scholarship into their decision-making about colleges. Because Scholars have until May 1 to decide on a college and subsequent negotiations with the colleges are sometimes necessary to ensure that the scholarship can be provided in the manner that is most helpful to our Scholars, we are not always able to post the names and biographies of winners on our website or to send personal letters of notification to Semifinalists and Finalists until May.