

# 2023 Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation Universal Scholarship Application

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*Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation-Scholar*

## *Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality*

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### **Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality\***

Please respect the confidentiality of the application process. These applications are submitted to a blind review process. However, if you recognize a student based on the details of their application and feel that you will be unable to be impartial to an applicant, contact Kristen Bertrand, Program Officer, and she will remove the application from your assignments. Here email address is: [kristen@southeasternillinois.org](mailto:kristen@southeasternillinois.org).

#### Choices

I agree

## *Academic Information*

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### **GPA Score\***

Scoring Criteria:

- If GPA is 3.9 or higher – score is 10 points
- If GPA is 3.7 to 3.8 - score is 8 points
- If GPA is 3.1 to 3.6 - score is 6 points
- If GPA is 2.6 to 3.0 - score is 4 points
- If GPA is lower than 2.5 - score is 0 points

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

## *Work, Activity, and Community Service*

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Non-traditional students will provide answers for jobs/internships experience, student activities, and community service in the "Activity Since High School" essay. Please review and consider this essay when awarding points to non-traditional students.

### **Jobs and Internships\***

Students who maintain a job demonstrate skills to be successful in college. Points can be awarded for length of commitment, the rigor of job, and work during the school year.

Points possible:

- 0 - No jobs
- 1 - Limited work experience (e.g., only one summer or 1-2 short-term jobs)
- 5 - Moderate work experience (e.g., two summers or regular hours during 1 school year at a job that requires a few skill sets)
- 10 - Significant work experience (in duration and/or how demanding/challenging the work is)

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

### **Student Activities\***

Award 2 points for each activity (10 points max)

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

### **Community Service\***

Award 2 points for each activity listed (10 points max)

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

### **Do NOT INCLUDE - Leadership Skills\***

Look for characteristics of leadership throughout this section. Did the student serve as the team captain? Part of a leadership team? Did the application initiate a program or drive? Serve as a mentor? Examples of leadership could be found both in and out of school.

Scoring Criteria:

- 0 - No examples of leadership
- 1 - 1-2 examples of leadership
- 5 - 3-4 examples of leadership
- 10 - 5+ examples of leadership

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

### **Overall Academic Merit\***

Review the student's GPA, academic achievements, ACT/SAT scores (if applicable) and overall Jobs/Internships, Student Activities and Community Service scores. Score the student's academic merit on a scale of 0 (poor performance) to 10 (excellent).

0 - 2 for little to no touch points

3 - 5 for one or more touch points

6 - 8 for more than two touch points

9 - 10 for several touch points

If no ACT/SAT test score is included do not penalize a student. ACT and SAT are not a requirement at all colleges/universities/trade schools, etc.

ACT and SAT information:

In 2022, the average ACT score was 19.8. If a student scored 21, then they scored higher than 50% of test-takers. That's pretty good, depending on your frame of reference. 24 places a student at the 74th percentile—better than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of test-takers!

In 2022, the average SAT score was 1050. Any score above that would be above average and perfectly acceptable for many colleges. A score of 1350 would put a student in the top 10% of test takers and help make their application competitive at more selective schools.

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

## *Financial Need*

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### **Financial Need\***

On a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being no financial need, 10 being very high financial need), rate the student's financial need. Use the Expected Family Contribution (whether self reported or the EFC from FAFSA report), estimated PELL grant, college scholarships, and financial need essays to guide your decision.

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

## *Essay Scoring Rubric*

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**Use this scoring rubric when evaluating essays.**

Essay Scoring Criteria:

- Score 3 points if it's a paragraph
- Score 4 points if it's a good (but not great) paragraph
- Score 5 points if it is a long paragraph, but doesn't make any sense
- Score 6 points if you can tell they tried but missed the point of the assignment
- Score 7 points if it's interesting, or starts out strong and then suddenly ends
- Score 8 points if it's personal, enlightening, or entertaining
- Score 9 points if it's really well-written, but could be a tiny bit better

- Score 10 points if it is a really well-written essay that flows, is personal, keeps you interested, lets you in on who the individual is or where they come from – how their life was and they hope it to be or what they can do for their family or community.

## *Additional Circumstances*

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### **Additional Circumstances Score\***

The "Additional Circumstances" question is the applicant's opportunity to tell us more about their story. The student may use this space to explain how they overcame adversity, experienced loss or grief, or excelled in an area of their life. It's up to the student to decide what story to tell. Consider their story and how it applies to their application when awarding points.

Scoring guide:

- Select "N/A" if no answer.
- Score 0 if the student provided a short sentence that was not helpful or descriptive
- Score 5 points if the student provided an essay that was informative but not relevant to the scholarship
- Score 10 points if the student provided an essay that was informative, well-written, and relevant to the scholarship application

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10 or N/A

## *Postlewaite*

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### **Education/Career Goal Essay Score\***

Please rate the applicant's education/career goal essay on a scale of 0-10.

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

### **Giving Back Essay\***

Please rate the applicant's Giving Back essay on a scale of 0-10.

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10

## *Croft Brothers Scholarship*

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### **Overcoming Adversity Essay Score\***

Please score the applicant's Overcoming Adversity essay on a scale of 0 to 10.

**Scoring Options:** 0 - 10