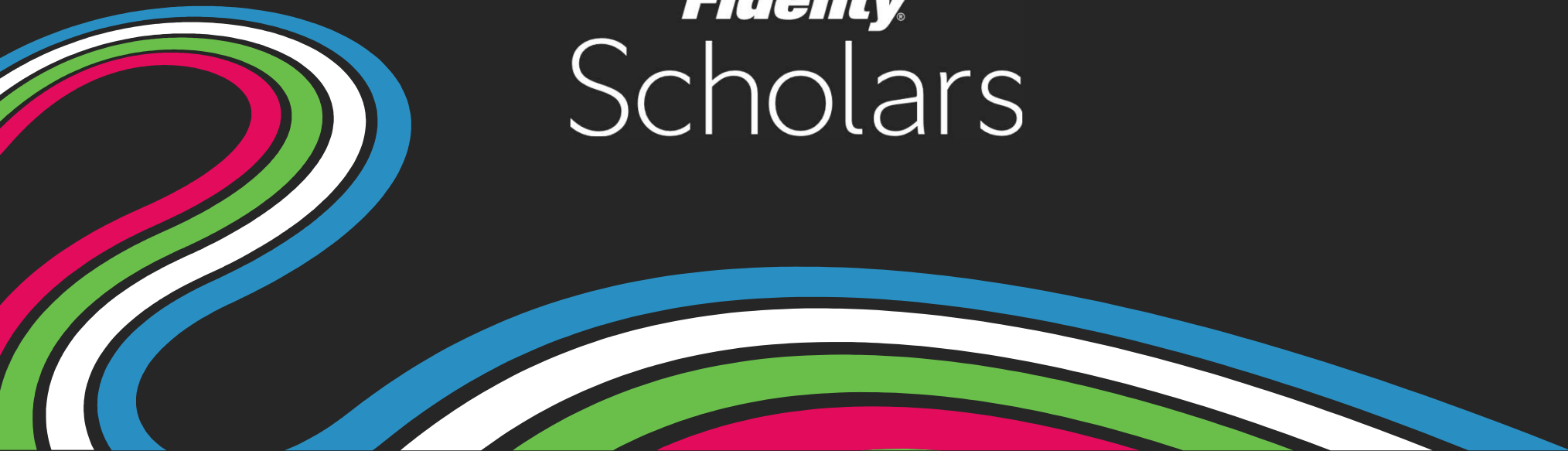




Fidelity
Scholars



Helping Students Reach Their Potential

Fidelity Scholars Program
Resources and Support





\$32 MILLION



What Sets The Fidelity Scholars Program Apart



By **easing the financial burden**, we enable students to focus more on their studies and less on how they'll pay for them.



We equip students with the knowledge to make **informed decisions about budgeting, saving and managing debt.**



Access to dedicated college success coaches who are committed to guiding students through every step of your academic journey.



Access to mental health resources through our partnership with the Steve Fund. We recognize that **mental well-being is essential to academic success.**



Mentors help **students build confidence, develop their talents**, and overcome challenges.



Scholars receive **access to career events and resources** designed to help them grow, gain experience, and thrive beyond college.

Key Partners



How does the scholarship work?

The Fidelity Scholars Program is a **renewable** scholarship. It is designed to reduce the overall cost of attendance, making college more accessible and affordable.

Cost of attendance is a college's total estimated expenses for one year, including:



Tuition and Fees



Books



Housing



Transportation



Meals



Other educational costs such as supplies and equipment

You can afford to
go to college!



Opportunity for YOU

Application closes January 28, 2027, at 11:59pmET

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1

2.5 - 3.59
unweighted GPA
or GED certificate

2

Pell eligible and/or
demonstrate
financial need

3

Aged 16-24 in
participating regions:
CO, D.C., FL, KY, MA, NJ, NH,
NM, NC, OH, RI, TX, UT,

4

Attend as an incoming 2027-28
freshman to an accredited
public or private college or
university in the state that you
reside

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents at time of application



Section One

This Section Includes:

- Building a Profile
- How to Prepare
- Application Process
- Vision Board
- Understanding Unweighted GPA

Fidelity Scholars Application Process

Oct 1	Jan 28	March	April
Application Opens	Application Closes	All finalists will be notified by email. You will be asked to submit your admission letter and financial aid letter for verification.	Award day! Fidelity Scholars notified by email

Steps to apply:

1

Create your profile on the UNCF website

2

Complete the Application for the Fidelity Scholars Program

- ✓ Activities, experiences
- ✓ Essay
- ✓ Vision Board
- ✓ Recommendation
- ✓ Transcript

3

Complete the FAFSA



Prepare now

1. Register on [Opportunities.UNCF.org](https://opportunities.uncf.org)

Create your profile. Save your user ID / password!

2. Start your research

Check out schools online, talk with others, or visit them if you can

- Make sure to include in-state schools aligned with your interests/goals.
- What type of environment do you thrive in?
- Write down those application deadlines

3. Talk with your family

Share your aspirations and have the money talk.

- Begin to create a financial plan and potential budget
- Plan to complete the FAFSA: grants, scholarships
- Write down those FAFSA and scholarship deadlines

4. Application preparation

Get a head start

- Create a resume or accomplishments list
- Request letters of recommendation; ask early and provide key details
- Prepare responses to questions / personal statement



Important Dates

October 1

Fidelity Scholars Program Application Opens

The application closes on January 28, 2027. You will be required to complete an essay, submit your transcript and upload a letter of reference and a Vision Board.

October 1

FAFSA opens

Create your FSA-ID and have your parent/guardian create their FSA-ID ahead of that date.

January 28

Application Closes

Submit by 11:59pmET



Here is what your students will need to do...

1. Make sure you have registered your account at [Opportunities.UNCF.org](https://opportunities.uncf.org)
 1. Click Log In or Register
 2. Register as an Applicant
 1. If you took a gap year after high school, be sure to select “YES you are a returning student” in your profile.
 3. Set up your password

*Completing registration takes 10 minutes
2. Complete your application - [Click Here](#)
 1. Share your accomplishments
 2. Complete an essay
 3. Upload a copy of your High School Transcript or GED
 4. Upload a .PDF or .DOC Vision Board artifact
 5. Upload a recommendation letter
 6. Sign and Submit

*The application takes 40 minutes



Go to:
www.UNCF.org/FidelityScholars



Education Section

The information from registration transfers over to your application

1. Verify the information is accurate
2. Answer the two additional questions at the bottom of the education section that weren't in registration

Select Intended Start Date

Aug 1, 2024

Current or Intended Major Name

Graphic Communications, General.

Current or Intended Major Category ⓘ

Communications Technologies/Technicians and Support S... ▼

I affirm that I will be applying to a college/university in my state of residence and am aware that if selected as a finalist for this program, full acceptance will only happen if I decide to enroll/matriculate at college/university in my home state.

☒ Yes
☐ No

Are you a first generation college student? ⓘ

☐ Yes
☒ No



Unweighted GPA

- To be eligible for the Fidelity Scholars Program, you must have an **unweighted** GPA between 2.5 – 3.5
- An unweighted GPA does not include extra credit for grades earned in an honors class or any type of accelerated studies (IB, AP, honors, etc.) course study.
- Steps on how to calculate your unweighted GPA are on the next slide and in the “Supporting Documents” found **HERE**.



Calculating Your Unweighted GPA

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR UNWEIGHTED GPA



LETTER GRADE	NUMBER GRADE	Credit	QUALITY POINTS
A	90-100	1	4
		.5	2
B	80-89	1	3
		.5	1.5
C	70-79	1	2
		.5	1
D	60-69	1	1
		.5	.5
F	0-59	1	0
		.5	0

- 1 ADD TOGETHER ALL OF YOUR QUALITY POINTS INCLUDING ZEROS FOR CLASSES YOU MAY HAVE HAD TO RETAKE OR CLASSES YOU MAY HAVE FAILED
- 2 COUNT THE NUMBER OF CREDITS YOU HAVE ATTEMPTED
- 3 DIVIDE YOUR TOTAL NUMBER OF QUALITY POINTS BY THE NUMBER OF COURSES YOU HAVE TAKEN ASSUMING EACH CLASS IS WORTH 1 CREDIT OR BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS IF CLASSES ARE NOT WORTH 1 CREDIT

$$\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Total Credits Attempted}} = \text{Grade Point Average}$$


HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR UNWEIGHTED GPA EXAMPLE



Calculating Unweighted GPA Example

Class	Grade	Credits	Quality Points
Math	A	1	4
English	B	1	3
Science	B	1	3
Cooking	A	0.5	2
Total		3.5	12

$$\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Total Credits Attempted}} = \text{Unweighted GPA}$$

$$\frac{12}{3.5} = 3.4 \text{ Unweighted GPA}$$



Vision Board Artifact

- Create a vision board that tells the story of your journey - where you've been, where you are, and where you hope to go - while showing how graduating with little to no debt connects to that path.
 - The Vision Board checklist requirements are on the next slide
- We are not evaluating how “attractive” or “artistic” your vision board looks. What matters most is what your board communicates—your goals, your reflections, and how you answer the prompts.



Vision Board Requirements

Your Vision Board should include the following:

- At least 5 visuals (from your camera roll, drawings, or stock images)
- A visual that captures your **future academic, career, or lifestyle goals**
- A visual that reflects **your current academic, social, or extracurricular experiences**
- A visual that represents the people, places, or passions that **ground or inspire you**
- A visual that highlights the **unique qualities, experiences, or dreams that set you apart**
- A visual from your personal camera roll (it does not have to show your face)
- A written expression on a separate page/slide.
 - 4-6 sentences explain what each image represents and how they reflect the story of your journey



Remember: The power of your vision board is in what it communicates, not how it looks.



Section Two

This Section Includes:

- Student Accomplishments
- Essay
- Letter of Recommendation

Brag About Yourself

- **Share your accomplishments with us**
 - Leadership Detail
 - Honors & Awards Details
 - Community Service
 - Paid Employment Details
- **You can add up to 5 accomplishments for each section. Don't be shy.**
- *This section is not required.



What's an Accomplishment?

- ☐ You don't have to hold a position to be a leader
- ☐ Types of leadership:
 - ☐ Being an older sibling/cousin—watching your family members after school, helping them with homework, cooking for them
 - ☐ Singing in the church choir, selling chocolate bars, working at Chipotle, led group discussion in class
 - ☐ Being a member of a team or club, helped planned an event, coordinated a practice
- ☐ Types of community service
 - ☐ 5K runs, feeding the homeless, making care packages, toys for toys
 - ☐ Cards for the elderly, volunteering to help underprivileged or disable people, helping programs at school
- ☐ **You can use the same thing twice!**
 - ☐ Working at chipotle can be leadership AND paid employment
 - ☐ Getting a sports award is leadership AND an honor/award



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Recommendation Letter

Submit your recommendation letter under the **File Attachments** tab.

- Your recommendation letter must be a PDF/scan. No screenshots will be accepted.
 - Documents can be scanned using a smart phone camera or app.
- Upload a letter written by a teacher, counselor, or mentor
 - **Relatives cannot serve as a reference, nor can we accept emailed letters of recommendation.**
- Letters **MUST** be on a letterhead, signed, and include the contact information of the person preparing the letter.
- The letter must be recommending you specifically for the Fidelity Scholars Program



Section Three

This Section Includes:

- How to Successfully Attach Documents to the Application
- Saving the Application
- Submitting the Application

Transcript

In your application, there will be a **tab that says More** with a drop-down arrow.

- Click on More and navigate to the **File Attachments** tab.
- Here, you can upload your **transcript, vision board artifact, and recommendation letter.**
- Your transcript must be a PDF/scan. No screenshots will be accepted.
 - Documents can be scanned using a smart phone camera or app.

*Your Transcript can be an unofficial transcript.



Adding Your Accomplishments

- To add different accomplishments:

1. Click on the tab on the left side of the screen for the preferred section
2. Select the “add” button on the right side of the screen
3. Input accomplishment information
4. Hit the “Save” button

The screenshot shows a web application interface for adding accomplishments. At the top, there are tabs: Personal Information, Demographic, Educational Status & History - Complete, Accomplishments (selected), Essays, File Attachments, and More. On the left, a sidebar lists sections: Leadership Detail (selected), Honors & Awards Details, Community Service, and Paid Employment Details. A blue arrow labeled '1' points to the 'Leadership Detail' section. On the right, a blue arrow labeled '2' points to an 'Add Leadership Detail' button. Below this, a modal window titled 'Add Leadership Detail' is shown, with a blue arrow labeled '3' pointing to the input fields. The modal contains the following fields: 'Name of Organization (Optional)' with a text input, 'Begin Date' with a date picker, 'To Present' checkbox, 'End Date (Optional)' with a date picker, 'Describe your leadership role and responsibilities' with a text input, and 'Title/Role' with a text input. At the bottom of the modal, there are 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons, with a blue arrow labeled '4' pointing to the 'Save' button.



Scanning Documents

Scanning a document on your iPhone:

1. Open the Notes app and select create a new note.
2. Tap the Camera button
3. Select “Scan Documents”
4. Position document in camera, scan, and save (iPhone scans automatically save as PDFs)
5. Upload document to application



Uploading a File Attachment

The screenshot shows the UNCF application interface for the 2024-2025 Fidelity Scholars Program. The 'File Attachments' tab is selected, and the 'Instructions' section is expanded. A green arrow points to the 'Upload File' button in the 'Recommendation' section.

Tap “Upload File”

The screenshot shows the same UNCF application interface, but with the 'Upload Files' dialog box open. The dialog box displays the file 'Recommendation Letter.docx' (12 KB) and a progress bar. A green arrow points to the 'Done' button in the dialog box.

Tap “Done”



Uploading a File Attachment

UNCF
HOME GET INVOLVED OUR IMPACT FOR COLLEGES DONATE TO UNCF

Application 2024-2025 Fidelity Scholars Program 88.6% Completed Application Progress

Personal Information Demographic Educational Status & History - Complete Accomplishments Essays File Attachments More

Transcript
All Second Views
Recommendation Letter
School Profile

Instructions
Please upload a letter written by a teacher, counselor, or mentor highlighting your strengths and why you should be selected for the Fidelity Scholarship Program. Letters MUST be on letterhead, signed and include the contact information of the person preparing the letter. After successfully uploading your file (s), click the blue ADD button to ensure your document has been attached.

Recommendation
[Upload File] or Drag Files
Description (Optional)
Enter text here... [3000]
[ADD]

After you see the green bar at the top, tap “Add”

Personal Information Demographic Educational Status & History - Complete Accomplishments Essays File Attachments More

Transcript
All Second Views
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School Profile

Instructions
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Recommendation
[Upload File] or Drag Files
Description (Optional)
Enter text here... [3000]
[ADD]

File Type	File Name	Description
WORD_X	Recommendation Letter	[icon] [icon] [icon]

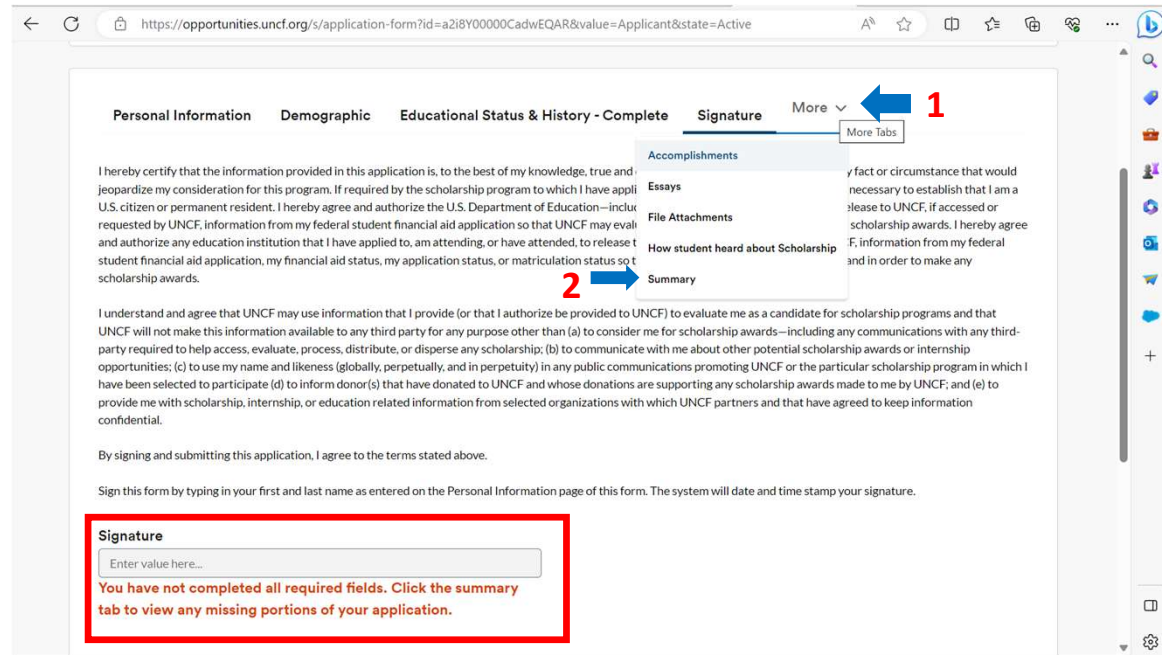
[Cancel] [Save] [Add & Continue]

Once you successfully upload your file, you will see a blue box.



Incomplete Application

- If you are missing any required items, your application is incomplete.
- You cannot sign your application until it is complete.
- To locate missing items:
 - Tap the “More” tab
 - Select the summary page



https://opportunities.uncf.org/s/application-form?id=a2i8Y00000CadwEQAR&value=Applicant&state=Active

Personal Information Demographic Educational Status & History - Complete Signature More

More Tabs

Accomplishments Essays File Attachments How student heard about Scholarship Summary

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate, and I will not use the information for any purpose other than that for which it was provided. I understand and agree that UNCF may use information that I provide (or that I authorize be provided to UNCF) to evaluate me as a candidate for scholarship programs and that UNCF will not make this information available to any third party for any purpose other than (a) to consider me for scholarship awards—including any communications with any third party required to help access, evaluate, process, distribute, or disperse any scholarship; (b) to communicate with me about other potential scholarship awards or internship opportunities; (c) to use my name and likeness (globally, perpetually, and in perpetuity) in any public communications promoting UNCF or the particular scholarship program in which I have been selected to participate (d) to inform donor(s) that have donated to UNCF and whose donations are supporting any scholarship awards made to me by UNCF; and (e) to provide me with scholarship, internship, or education related information from selected organizations with which UNCF partners and that have agreed to keep information confidential.

By signing and submitting this application, I agree to the terms stated above.

Sign this form by typing in your first and last name as entered on the Personal Information page of this form. The system will date and time stamp your signature.

Signature

Enter value here...

You have not completed all required fields. Click the summary tab to view any missing portions of your application.



Missing Items/Incomplete Application

▼ Detailed Errors (3)

Essays

[Essay 1](#)

File Attachments

[Current Transcript File](#)

Signature

[Please add a signature to submit your application.](#)

- On the summary page you will find “Detailed Errors”
- This shows you all the required fields of the application that are missing items
- Click the blue words to go to the section where these items are missing



Application Submission

The screenshot shows a web application interface with a navigation bar at the top containing links: Personal Information, Demographic, Educational Status & History - Complete, Summary (which is underlined), and More with a dropdown arrow. Below the navigation bar is a large text box with instructions: "Please review your saved responses below. If an area is blank or if you wish to modify information, please navigate to that specific tab within this application and input the information there. Don't forget to select 'Save' or 'Save & Continue' on each tab to ensure your answers are displayed appropriately below. You must click SUBMIT in order for your application to be considered for this opportunity." Below this is a section titled "Detailed Errors (0)" with a downward arrow. A large blue "SUBMIT" button is centered below the errors section. To the right of the "SUBMIT" button is a small "Print" button with a printer icon. Below these buttons is a form section titled "Personal" with fields for First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Testy, Suffix, and Date Of Birth.

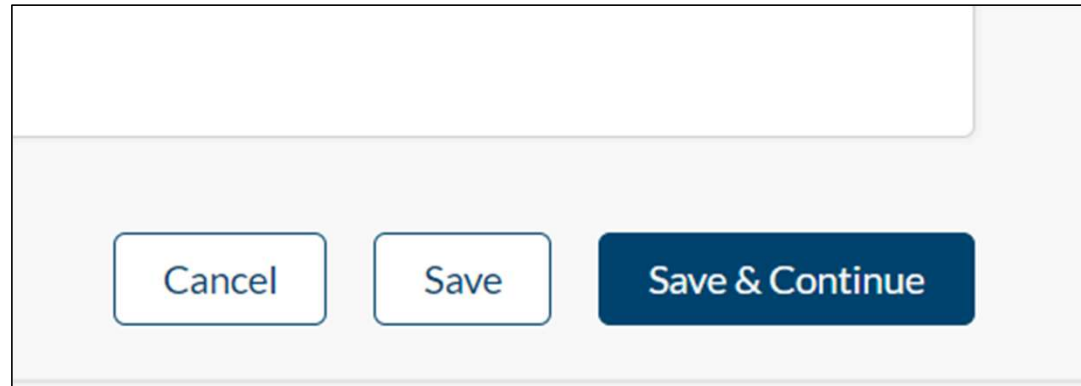
After the signature page, review your application on the summary page, and click the “Submit” button.

The screenshot shows a modal dialog box titled "Confirm Submission" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The main text inside the modal reads: "You are about to submit your Application. Once submitted, you may not be permitted to edit the form. Please click 'Confirm Submission' to submit your application and be considered for this opportunity." At the bottom right of the modal are two buttons: a light blue "Cancel" button and a dark blue "Confirm Submission" button.

Your application isn't submitted until you have completed the signature page, clicked "Submit" **AND** clicked the **"Confirm Submission"** button.



Cancel vs. Save vs. Save & Continue



Cancel	Exit the application without saving most recent work
Save	Save your work and stay on the same section. *If you hit “Save” before canceling, your work is saved for later.
Save & Continue	Save your work and move on to the next section



Save Your Application and Finish Later

- You can always save your work and finish the application later.
- When you complete a section in your application, always hit “Save” and/or “Save and Continue” to save your work. If you hit “Cancel” without saving, the application will close and your work will be lost.
- Follow these steps to locate and finish an application you started:
 - Go to www.Opportunities.UNCF.org
 - Click “Log In/Register” at the top of the page
 - Log into your UNCF account
 - Hover over “Home” at the top of the page
 - Select “Applicant Home”
 - Select the Fidelity Scholars Program application



Submission Confirmation

- Your application status will change to “Submitted” after a successful submission
- You will also receive an email letting you know your application is complete

Applicant Name
Testy Test

Show in Applicant Home [Withdraw](#)

Application Status					
Program Name	Created Date	Last Modified...	Status	Deadline	Submission Date
2024-2025 Fidelity Scholars Program	2023-10-9	2023-10-9	Submitted	2023-10-09	2023-10-09





Let's Stay Connected

Scan the QR code to receive today's slide deck

FSP Connection Form



Tools You Can Use

- Check out the Program Overview
 - [Program Overview](#)
- Download the Community Toolkit for Resources
 - [Fidelity Scholars Program: Community Toolkit - UNCF](#)
- Community College (CC) Initiative for Eligible Students Interested in CC
 - [Fidelity Scholars Program Community College Initiative \(CCI\) Interest Form – Fill out form](#)
- Subscribe to our Influencer Webinar
 - [Influencer Webinar Registration Link](#)
- Subscribe to our Family/ Student Webinar
 - [Student Webinar Registration Link](#)
- Subscribe to our Influencer Newsletter:
 - [UNCF Scholarships + Programs –](#)





Learn more



FidelityScholars@uncf.org

Application opens October 1, 2026

Closes January 28, 2027

