



Odessa College Foundation

Scholarship Policy Statement

Purpose:

Odessa College is proud to offer a variety of scholarships to help students achieve their educational goals. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the steadfast support from our community, local businesses, and alumni, we are able to provide meaningful financial assistance to deserving students.

The Odessa College Foundation Scholarship Program exists to eliminate financial barriers and create pathways to opportunity for students pursuing personal and professional growth through higher education. Rooted in Odessa College's mission to serve every student and meet them where they are, our scholarships are designed to support persistence, recognize potential, and invest in the dreams of learners from all backgrounds.

Eligibility:

All applicants will be evaluated based on criteria set by donors, which must be upheld to retain the award. Scholarship eligibility depends on GPA, enrollment hours, major, and financial aid awarded (receiving other financial aid may render you ineligible for foundation scholarships).

- Must be an admitted, and enrolled student at Odessa College
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (unless otherwise specified)
- Demonstrated financial need via FAFSA or equivalent
- Meet merit of award detailed by scholarship donor.

Application & Selection:

- Applications are submitted via Odessa College AwardSpring platform.
- Applicants are matched to their award. Selection of recipients is made through collaboration of the Financial Aid department, Advancement office and program faculty or directors, as desired by the scholarship donor.
- If awarded: students receive their scholarship award letter through their AwardSpring account. They must follow the instructions provided to complete award requirements.

Administration & Compliance:

- The Odessa College Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Advancement oversee and monitor fund disbursement and maintains records for audit purposes
- Annual review of the scholarship program is conducted by the Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors to ensure alignment with donor intent and institutional goals

Policy Amendments & Exceptions:



- Any significant amendments require approval by the Foundation’s Board of Directors
- Exceptions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, with documentation and Board approval

Non-Discrimination and Donor Preferences

The Odessa College Foundation is committed to ensuring equal opportunity in all scholarship awards. The Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law.

Some scholarships are established with specific donor-designated preferences intended to support students from certain backgrounds, geographic areas, academic programs, or life experiences. In such cases, these preferences are considered only to the extent permitted by law and are applied in a manner consistent with Odessa College’s mission, values, and commitment to equity.

All scholarship decisions are made in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws, including Title VI, Title IX, the Age Discrimination Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. When donor intent includes specific criteria, the Foundation administers the scholarship using preference-based or holistic review models, ensuring that no student is excluded solely on the basis of a protected classification.