

Security First Federal Credit Union

Annual Scholarship Program



Security First Federal Credit Union (SFFCU) will be awarding nine (9) \$1,000 scholarships for the 2024 academic year. Submissions are reviewed by our Scholarship Committee and are scored based on the completed application, required documentation, and the completed typed or video essay. Reference letters are not required; however, they are strongly encouraged.

The scholarship application program begins on **September 1, 2023**, and ends on **January 31, 2024**. Selected scholarship recipients will be notified no later than **March 29, 2024**, by email. By submission of the application, Security First Federal Credit Union reserves the right to use selected applicants' names and any likeness thereof for promotional purposes, including, but not limited to, social media, print, and web.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The applicant must be an **active primary** member in good standing or become a primary member by 12/30/2023. To open an SFFCU account, you must live, work, worship, or study in any of the four (4) Rio Grande counties (Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy). If the applicant is already a member but has relocated, they are still eligible to apply.
- The applicant must be classified as a 2024 graduating high school student.
- Have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 (B average) on a 4.0 scale.
- The applicant must be accepted into an accredited college, university, or other postsecondary institution for the 2024 academic year.

Required Documentation:

- An unofficial copy of the applicant's current high school transcripts.
- Applicant's postsecondary acceptance letter(s) on official typed letterhead or email.
- An Enrollment Verification Letter from the applicant's attending postsecondary institution may be required if selected as a scholarship recipient.
- Required essay in a typed or video format.

Essay - Typed or Video Format:

All applications must include a typed essay **OR** a video answering one of the following prompts. **Note:** *The most important thing to remember is to be original as you share your own story, thoughts, and ideas with us.*

1. Share your story from your everyday life that reveals something about your character, values, and life that aligns with the culture and values growing up in the Rio Grande Valley.
2. Who has been the most influential person in your life?

Essay Submission:

1. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, with a minimum of 500 words.
2. Must be included with the scholarship application.

Video Submission:

1. Email, Drop-off, or By Mail Submissions: Please email a link to your video (for example, Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.) to marketing@securityfirstcu.com.
2. Online Applications: There will be a form field to input your link to your video (for example, Dropbox, Google Drive link, etc.).



Video Guidelines:

- The video should be at least 60 seconds and no longer than 2 minutes.
- Please record in portrait format with bright lighting, clean audio, and a simple, clean background.
- Show us your personality. The video should be engaging and fun. Show off your creativity.
- Please refrain from using any offensive, inappropriate, or illegal images or sounds.
- Any copyrighted materials (e.g., music, images, logos) may only be used if you have permission or own the copyright.

Other:

- Reference letters are not required; however, they are strongly encouraged. Reference letters may be submitted (with your application) from your choice of teachers, counselors, employers, or community leaders. If unable to submit at the time of application submission, please mail or email separately before the application deadline.
- All scholarship funds will be made payable directly to the applicants attending postsecondary institutions no later than August 31, 2024. Funds **will not** be paid out to the recipients.
- Open to children of Security First Federal Credit Union employees.
- Not open to children of Security First Federal Credit Union board members and senior staff.
- Incomplete applications will not be eligible.

How to apply (for complete details, please refer to page 7)

- **Online Application:** Be prepared to upload all required documents at the time of submitting the application. The application cannot be saved and must be completed in one sitting.
- **Branch Drop-off or Email:** You may drop off your application along with the required documentation at any of our nine convenient locations. Alternatively, you can email the PDF along with the required documentation to the Marketing Department at marketing@securityfirstcu.com.
- **By Mail**

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Security First Credit Union account number: _____

How did you hear about our scholarship: ☐ In-Branch ☐ Statement Notice ☐ Facebook

☐ Instagram ☐ My School ☐ Other _____

First Name: _____ M.I: _____ Last Name: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____ Alternate Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Email Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Father/Guardian Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Mother/Guardian Name: _____ Occupation: _____

First-Generation College Student? **Y** ☐ **N** ☐ Number of Siblings currently in college? _____

Are you currently classified as a graduating high school senior? **Y** ☐ **N** ☐

School Name: _____ County: _____

Which postsecondary institution do you plan to attend for the Fall 2024 academic school year?

School Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

What degree/major will you be pursuing? _____



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please provide the last five organizations/positions held during your high school tenure:

Organization/Club	Elected Position <i>(If applicable)</i>	Dates Active
_____	_____	From _____ to _____
_____	_____	From _____ to _____
_____	_____	From _____ to _____
_____	_____	From _____ to _____
_____	_____	From _____ to _____

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Please provide the last five community organizations involved in during your high school tenure:

Activity	Accumulated Hours	Dates Active
_____	_____	From _____ to _____
_____	_____	From _____ to _____
_____	_____	From _____ to _____
_____	_____	From _____ to _____
_____	_____	From _____ to _____

HONORS AND AWARDS

Please provide the last five honors/awards received during your high school tenure:

Title	Basis for Award	Years Award
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

WORK HISTORY - PAID OR VOLUNTEER

Please list jobs you have held or are currently holding. Provide a brief description of your position and responsibilities, dates of employment, and hours worked weekly, monthly, or annually.

Business:

Position: _____

Date: from _____ to _____

Hours Worked: ____ ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Annually

Responsibilities:

Business:

Position: _____

Date: from _____ to _____

Hours Worked: ____ ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Annually

Responsibilities:

Business:

Position: _____

Date: from _____ to _____

Hours Worked: ____ ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Annually

Responsibilities:

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE (OPTIONAL)

Please explain below. Note: This section is only if you have an extenuating circumstance you would like to include. It is **NOT** for the required essay.

SUBMISSION OPTIONS:

ONLINE

Be prepared to upload all required documents at the time of submitting the application. There is no option to save for later. Visit securityfirstcu.com/scholarship-program to apply. The deadline to submit is **11:59 PM on January 31, 2024**

MAIL

Must be postmarked by **January 31, 2024**. Please mail to:

SECURITY FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Scholarship Program

ATTN: Marketing Department

PO BOX 4829

McAllen, TX 78502

EMAIL

Must be received via email by **11:59 PM on January 31, 2024**. Please email:

marketing@securityfirstcu.com. **Subject Line:** Scholarship Application – (Your Full Name).

DROP-OFF

We have nine convenient locations throughout the Rio Grande Valley. Must be dropped off no later than **January 31, 2024, at 5:00 PM, Attention: Marketing Department / Scholarship Application**

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all information provided on this application and all supporting documents are accurate and complete. I understand that any misleading or false information will result in my application being disqualified. If selected as a scholarship winner, Security First Federal Credit Union reserves the right to use the chosen applicant's name and any likeness thereof for promotional purposes, including, but not limited to, social media, print, and web.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature (if applicant is under age 18)

Date

