

# THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### When can I apply for a Newcombe Scholarship?

Applications are open along the same timeline as the WCU general scholarship application. The application deadline is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### How many Newcombe scholarships are awarded each year, and how much is awarded?

There is no fixed number of Newcombe scholarships to be awarded. The number of awards generally corresponds to the amount of funding available during a given year. Historically, the number of scholarships awarded has been in the range of 20-30 per year, and are awarded in several different amounts, ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 for the year.

### I also meet the eligibility criteria for the Alice Conway Memorial Scholarship, do I have to complete a separate application?

**No.** If you meet the criteria for the Alice Conway Memorial Scholarship, please use the same application as the Newcombe Scholarship, which can be [accessed here](#) (search for “Newcombe”).

### I also meet the eligibility criteria for the New Century Club Scholarship, do I have to complete a separate application?

**No.** If you meet the criteria for the New Century Club Scholarship, please use the same application as the Newcombe Scholarship, which can be [accessed here](#) (search for “Newcombe”).

## I will be graduating at the end of the Fall Semester 2026. Am I still eligible?

**Yes.** If you are enrolled in at least nine credits during the Fall semester of your graduation, you are still eligible. If selected, the full amount of your scholarship will be applied to your account during the fall semester.

## I already have a Bachelor's degree. Am I still eligible?

**Maybe.** The primary intention of the scholarship program is to support undergraduate students taking courses leading to their first bachelor's degree. However, a portion of the awarded scholarships may be made to students enrolled in a second bachelor's degree programs or in post-bachelor's certification programs, if the degree or certificate is necessary to gain, maintain or improve employment. If this applies to you, please be sure to discuss it in your application.

No Newcombe/ Conway Scholarships may be awarded for master's or doctoral degrees. **If you are in a five-year joint degree program, you will only be eligible while you are considered an undergraduate student.**

## What if I'm not currently enrolled in classes for the upcoming year?

You may apply for the scholarship without being enrolled in classes, but if you are selected to receive a scholarship, you **must** take a minimum of 9 credits each semester or the scholarship will be revoked.

## I am a previous recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship. Can I reapply?

**Yes!** Prior recipients who still meet all of the eligibility requirements are welcome and encouraged to reapply.

## What is a FAFSA, and where can I fill one out?

Applicants for the Charlotte W. Newcombe/ Alice Conway Scholarships **MUST** fill out and submit the FAFSA by **April 12<sup>th</sup>**.

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Anyone who wants financial aid for college needs to fill out a FAFSA. All federal grant and loan awards are determined by the FAFSA, and nearly all colleges use the FAFSA as the basis for their own financial aid awards. You may fill out a FAFSA online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> . Paper FAFSA applications are available at WCU's Office of Financial Aid. Contact the Office of Financial Aid via email at [Finaid@wcupa.edu](mailto:Finaid@wcupa.edu) on instructions on how to access a paper FAFSA.

## I'm an international student, so I don't file a FAFSA. Can I still apply?

**Yes!** International Students will need to complete and submit a paper copy of the FAFSA. Also, please describe in your essay the financial responsibilities that make it difficult to attend or stay in college. The selection committee members award scholarship amounts based on financial need. Please note that the New Century Club Scholarship is only available to students with U.S. citizenship.

## Do you have any tips for writing a great application essay?

**Of course!** The essay is the portion of the application that provides the selection committee with the opportunity to get to know you best. We offer it as an opportunity to discuss how the scholarship funds would support completion of your educational goals.

The application essay is split into two parts. In the first part, please provide what you think would be important for the committee to know about your life circumstances. We invite you to think about the things in your life that make it challenging for you to attend and stay in college. These reasons might include financial support and/or caregiving for children or others, illness, insecure housing, loss of employment or inability to find suitable employment. In this part, please focus on discussing the **impact** of those challenges on your ability to achieve your goals. The maximum word requirement is 250 words for this part.

In the second part of the application essay, we want you to make a direct connection between your educational goals and your future career goals. The selection committee wants to understand the why behind your degree and your next steps, and how this scholarship can move those goals forward. There is no maximum word requirement for this section, though we invite you to be brief, in the range of 250-500 words.

Consider making an appointment with the Writing Center for assistance during all parts of the essay process. You can make an appointment by visiting [https://www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/writingcenter/](https://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/writingcenter/). The Writing Center offers online and in person appointments. For WCU Philadelphia students, the Student Success Center offers appointments in person and via Zoom. You can make an appointment or learn more by visiting [https://www.wcupa.edu/\\_admin/philly/studentsuccess.aspx](https://www.wcupa.edu/_admin/philly/studentsuccess.aspx).

## Where do I turn in my application?

Completed applications should be submitted via the [accessed here](#)

## How are decisions made about who will receive the scholarships?

All applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of faculty and staff from across the West Chester University community. Committee members will consider specific needs of students in determining the size, range and number of awards.

When should I expect to be notified of whether or not I received the scholarship?

We aim to notify applicants for this scholarship by mid-June.

Is there anything else I need to do if I am selected for an award?

**Yes.** You will be asked to write a letter of appreciation to the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation. You may also be invited to attend programs designed to recognize and/or support Newcombe Scholars. Details of upcoming events will be distributed via email.