



FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

Supporting Students
and Their Futures



What We Are

The Freedom Scholarship is South Dakota's first public/private partnership for a need-based scholarship, made possible by the generosity of First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard, the State of South Dakota under the leadership of Governor Kristi Noem, Avera Health and Sanford Health. With gifts and commitments now totaling \$175M, the Freedom Scholarship is the state's largest need-based scholarship endowment. \$5.1M is to be allocated for the 2022-2023 pilot year. Managed by the South Dakota Community Foundation, this funding is in an endowment that will continue to provide scholarships in perpetuity.

Who We Help

This scholarship is available to students with unmet financial need as determined through their submission of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in conjunction with the financial aid office at the respective university. These students are South Dakota residents, have a plan to work in the state after graduation and are pursuing any field of study. The requirement to stay and work in South Dakota is important as we think about the state's future workforce needs.

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Where the Funds Will Go

The following South Dakota schools are eligible for Freedom Scholarship funds, which will be allocated in 2022.

- * Augustana University
- * Black Hills State University
- * Dakota State University
- * Dakota Wesleyan University
- * Mount Marty University
- * Northern State University
- * Oglala Lakota College
- * Presentation College
- * Sinte Gleska University
- * South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
- * South Dakota State University
- * University of Sioux Falls
- * University of South Dakota

How to Qualify

Eligible students must meet the following qualifications:

- * Maintain South Dakota residency for at least one year prior to scholarship application
- * Attend an eligible institution (listed above)
- * Demonstrate financial need*
- * Meet minimum GPA requirements
- * Be pursuing a baccalaureate degree
- * Graduate in five years or less
- * Commit in writing to live in South Dakota for three years after graduation
- * Acknowledge that any failure to meet these requirements will result in the conversion from scholarship to interest-bearing loan

* Cost of Attendance – Expected Family Contribution – Awarded Financial Aid = Student Need

For additional information, please contact Elli Haerter, South Dakota Freedom Scholarship Coordinator at EHaerter@sdcommunityfoundation.org

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