



LOC Scholars is a comprehensive college scholarship program operated by Areté Rising, a nonprofit organization that creates economic opportunity for young adults. Scholarships are awarded to high-achieving students from middle-income families who seek to attend and graduate from selective four-year colleges and universities. Scholars apply and are selected during their junior year of high school. By guaranteeing funding prior to the college application process, LOC Scholars are empowered to apply to their top choice schools without financial limitations.

### LOC SCHOLARS ELIGIBILITY

Students who meet the following criteria may apply for the LOC Scholars program in January of their junior year in high school:

- They are a student at a partner organization or institution;
- Their overall, unweighted GPA is 3.25 or higher on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent);
- They intend to enroll full-time in an accredited 4-year college or university following high school graduation;
- They are able to attend our mandatory, in-person onboarding event in Los Angeles July 11-13, 2025;
- LOC Scholars exists to support students in the "missing middle" who may not qualify for existing grant opportunities. Each year we calculate the financial eligibility range as a percentage of the inflation adjusted mean family income for Los Angeles county as determined by the US Census Bureau. If you are interested in applying, please reach out to your school's LOC Scholars liaison for this year's financial eligibility criteria.

### KEY DATES

#### Application Round One

Round 1 Opens: January 1, 2025

Round 1 Closes: February 3, 2025

#### Semi-Finalists Announced

March 2025

#### Application Round Two

Round 2 Opens: March 21, 2025

Round 2 Video Submission Due: April 21, 2025

Junior Spring Transcripts Due: June 9, 2025\*

#### Recipients Announced

By June 2025

\*Selected students only

Questions can be directed to the Areté Rising team at [locscholars@areterising.org](mailto:locscholars@areterising.org)

## ABOUT LOC SCHOLARS

### WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT DOES THE SCHOLARSHIP INCLUDE?

Each LOC Scholar has access to generous financial support for up to four years. Award amounts will vary, based on the college cost of attendance, as well as the amount of any other awards or grants a scholar receives, but will generally include full tuition, room and board, health insurance, and required fees. Support may also be available for ancillary expenses, including eligible pre-college costs, and career development related endeavors.

### WHAT DOES THE APPLICATION PROCESS ENTAIL?

The LOC Scholars program application is comprised of two rounds. A selection committee will review each application. Academic ability and achievement will be considered, as well as exhibition of the following scholarship values: excellence, persistence, growth, and discipline.

Round One is an online application that includes the following:

- An eligibility component, wherein applicants will be asked to share household financial information;
- An academic profile, wherein students will be asked to share their high school transcript and information about their extracurricular activities and leadership experience;
- Two essay questions (300-500 words each).

For those selected to advance, Round Two of the application includes the submission of a short video and Junior spring transcripts.

### HOW MANY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WILL BE SELECTED?

In 2025, a maximum of 5 LOC Scholars will be selected.

### ONCE SELECTED AS LOC SCHOLARS, WHAT IS EXPECTED OF STUDENTS?

Upon selection, Scholars will receive a Scholar Agreement which outlines the full list of responsibilities required to maintain good program standing, the most significant of which are the following:

- Maintain a minimum 3.25 unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) throughout junior and senior years of high school;
- Maintain a minimum 3.2 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale throughout college;
- Maintain regular communication with scholarship staff, which includes, but is not limited to, submitting academic progress updates on a regular basis;
- Maintain continuous, full-time enrollment at a 4-year college or university and pursue on-time college graduation;
- Engage with the LOC Scholars community, including attending annual, in-person Scholars Weekend;
- Act with honesty and personal integrity; demonstrate strength of character and leadership, and show concern for community.

### SHOULD STUDENTS INFORM THEIR COLLEGES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE LOC SCHOLARSHIP?

Yes. Students may tell schools that they have been selected to receive the LOC Scholarship, and should comply fully with all required disclosures. As long as the selected student continues to uphold the scholarship eligibility requirements, they will receive the financial support outlined herein.

### ARE SCHOLARSHIPS CONSIDERED TAXABLE INCOME FOR STUDENTS?

A portion of each scholarship award may be considered taxable by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Scholarship recipients are responsible for determining their tax liability and reporting any taxable portion of their scholarship as income. LOC Scholars will report the names, addresses, and amounts received by grant recipients in publicly available financial disclosures, as required by law.