



LOC SCHOLARS

A college scholarship for middle-income students.

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:

- A student at a partner organization or institution.
- Overall, unweighted GPA is 3.25 or higher on a 4.0 scale or equivalent.
- Intend to enroll full-time in an accredited 4-year college or university following high school graduation.
- Able to attend our mandatory, in-person LOC Scholars onboarding event in Los Angeles in August.
- 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 median 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.

Application Timeline

Application Round One

Dec: Registration begins

Jan: Round One opens

Feb: Round One closes

Semi-Finalists announced by the end of March

Application Round Two

Mar: Round Two opens

Apr: Video submission due

Standardized test scores due

Recipients announced by the end of June

Visit areterising.org/locscholars for more details.



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's the application process?

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 standardized test scores.

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.

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 + 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 pursuing 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 should inform schools that they're applying for the scholarship and notify them again if selected. They must follow all required disclosures. As long as a selected student continues to meet the scholarship eligibility requirements, they will receive the financial support outlined herein.

How many scholarship recipients will be selected?

On average, 5 LOC Scholars will be selected each year.

Questions can be directed to the Areté Rising team at: locscholars@areterising.org
