



The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Details of the Award

- Two \$4000 scholarships are available for the upcoming year.
- One-year scholarships are available to juniors, seniors and graduate students (pursuing a Master's Degree).
- Sophomores may make application for their junior year.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be a US Citizen or Permanent Legal Resident of the United States.
- Must be an Illinois resident.
- International or Foreign Exchange Students are not eligible.
- Doctoral program students are not eligible.
- Must be attending Illinois school full-time as defined by GCI:
 - Undergraduate students must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 graded hours of classes.
 - Graduate students must be enrolled for a minimum of 9 graded hours of classes.
- Study abroad on fellowships or internships are not eligible; funds may be applied to studies overseas provided that the study is a condition of the recipient's degree plan and that payment continues to be made to the accredited U.S. college or university.
- Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale).
- Equal opportunity shall be provided to all applicants.
- Must be planning a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture.
- Must be **majoring** in one of the following fields of study:
 - Agronomy
 - Agriculture Education
 - Floriculture
 - Horticulture
 - Landscape Design
 - Botany, Biology
 - Forestry
 - Plant Pathology/Science
 - City (Rural & Urban) Planning
 - Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology
 - Environmental Concerns (Management: Environmental, Horticulture Resource/Environmental Behavior)
 - Environmental Conservation (inc. Engineering, etc.
 - Wildlife Science
 - Land Management and/or other related or allied subject

Selection Criteria

- All applications received by March 15th will be judged by the Scholarship Chairman and a committee in order to choose two winning applications.
- The following Scale of Points will be used for the evaluation of each application:

Academic Record	40%
Applicant's Letter	25%
Listing of Honors/Extracurricular Activities/Work Experience	10%
Financial Need	15%
Recommendations	10%
- Winners will be notified in writing of the committee's decision immediately following the judging.

Description of Funds

- Scholarship checks for the winning applicant will be mailed by late July from GCI Headquarters to the Financial Aid Office. No funds will be sent directly to the student.
- All funds will be distributed by the Financial Aid Office according to the particular school's term-system, unless the student has only one term remaining before the completion of the degree.
- In the event of a change in a student's major to one other than those listed above, or if the student withdraws from school, the balance of the funds must be returned to the Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.
- The student and Financial Aid Officer will determine how the money is to be allocated: tuition, food, housing, books, etc.

Application Procedure

- The following documents must be submitted:
 1. GCI Scholarship Application Form
 2. Financial Aid Form
 3. Complete academic transcripts
 4. Letter from applicant
 5. List of extracurricular activities, honors, recognitions within the last three years
 6. Two letters of recommendation
- All of the documents must be mailed by the applicant in one large **envelope**. Do not place the documents in page protectors, in any sort of permanent binder or staple the pages.
- Applications must be mailed to the State Scholarship Chairman. The address is on the application form.
- Deadline: Received by March 15th.
- When a student reapplies for a scholarship (whether the applicant is or is not a previous winner), a complete new and updated application must be submitted.

Instructions for Filling out Application

- All forms must be typed or computer generated.

Application Form		• GCI Application Form must be used • ALL fields completed
Financial Aid Form		• All questions answered including dollar amounts • Signed by student • If Financial Aid information is not available before the application deadline, information from the previous academic year may be used with the notation that it is an estimate based on the previous year
Transcripts		• Academic transcripts • Transcripts must include the latest grading period • Graduate students must include undergraduate transcripts
Letter	Limit — 2 pages	• Discuss background, future goals, financial need, future career goals
List of Activities	Limit — 2 pages	• List to include only items for the last 3 years • Students returning to school after an absence can list work experience and activities
Letters of Recommendation	Limit — 2 letters Limit — 1 page each	• Discuss scholastic ability, personal character, work-related experience