

2026 FIRST DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

First Dakota National Bank understands the importance of higher education. We support our communities and the youth within them. In order to encourage students to pursue furthering their education, First Dakota is proud to offer scholarships ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 for the 2026-2027 school year. Please follow eligibility requirements below and turn in your application soon!

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Student must be a U.S. citizen/permanent resident.
- Student must be a high school senior or currently attending a post-secondary accredited American college, vocational technical school, or university.
- Student must plan to attend an accredited post-high school college, university, vocational technical school, community college or junior college on a full-time basis.
- Student must provide confirmation of enrollment. Payment of the scholarship will be made directly to the school.
- Previous scholarship winners are not eligible.
- At the time of application, student must have a **First Dakota** checking account and demonstrate satisfactory account maintenance.
- If you would like to apply for the First Dakota student scholarship and do not currently have an account, you can open an account online at FirstDakota.com>Personal>Open an Account, or you can stop by any First Dakota location and open one today. You will enjoy the benefits!

SCHOLARSHIP JUDGING CRITERIA

A point system based on the following information will be used to score the applications. See the reverse side for detailed information.

1. **LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**
2. **ESSAY**
3. **SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT**
4. **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
5. **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT (must be an official copy)**
6. **PHOTO**

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

March 3, 2026	Applications must be postmarked by March 3, 2026 and mailed to: First Dakota National Bank, c/o Marketing Department, PO Box 156, Yankton, SD 57078
April 21, 2026	First Dakota Scholarship winners will be notified.
May 2026	Announcement of winners will appear in local papers

******Attach a photo with your name printed on the back which will be used for advertising only.******

2026 FIRST DAKOTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name _____ Email address _____

Cell Number _____ Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ School currently attending _____

Graduation date _____ Grade Point Average _____ Intended major _____

College or post-secondary school you plan to attend or are attending _____

Your First Dakota Checking Account # _____ Your Parent (Guardian) _____

Phone number _____ Address (if different from above) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If you have high school or college age siblings, please include their names and ages

**Attach a photo with your name printed on the back.
Photos will be used for advertising purposes of the scholarship winners.**

ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING THREE TOPICS & ATTACH YOUR RESPONSES TO THIS APPLICATION (Entries must be typed with name included at the top of each page.)

1. LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- a. **Honors & Distinctions** – In order of importance to you, **list** school, community or organizational awards and recognition received. If you have more than eight, list the eight most important. If you are in college, please categorize college and high school honors and distinctions separately for a total of eight.
- b. **Extra-Curricular Activities** – In order of importance to you, **list** participation in extracurricular activities, the number of years involved in each and any offices held, and awards or recognitions. If you have more than eight, list the eight most important. If you are in college, please categorize college and high school honors and distinctions separately for a total of eight.
- c. **Community Service / Work Experience** – In order of importance to you, **list** involvement in community service projects and the number of service hours for each. **List** work experience with the length of employment at each. If you have more than eight, list the eight most important.

2. ESSAY:

Write an essay of 250 words or less on the following topic:

AI is a powerful tool. Please provide two specific examples of how it has either helped or hindered you.

Remember, we want YOUR (not Chat GPT's) thoughts and opinions on the topic. Use of AI to write your essay will result in your application being disqualified.

3. SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT & FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Scholastic Achievement - Include an **official transcript**.

Financial Responsibility - Good account maintenance will demonstrate Financial Responsibility – no response needed.

All eligibility requirements listed on the reverse side of this application must be met. Scholarships may not be used for any other purpose. Winners agree to have their names and photo released to the media. Winners are not eligible to apply for future First Dakota Scholarships. If the above format is not followed, it may result in disqualification.

Signature _____ Date _____

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