Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. : 2026-2027 Undergraduate Scholarship Program

Application Deadline: May 1, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Midnight)
Recommendation Deadline: May 1, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Midnight)

Link to application (Google Form): Application Form

If you have any questions or run into any issues with your application, please email scholarshipundergrad@zontawashingtondc.org.

Description
The objective of The Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. Scholarship is to provide financial support to women undergraduates pursuing a bachelor's degree at a college or university in the District of Columbia (listed below) who demonstrate academic achievement, substantial community involvement, and financial need.

The Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. Scholarship Awards are based on merit and financial need. Applicants are required to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form prior to applying for this scholarship program. *If an applicant cannot submit a copy of the FAFSA form, she must explain why this is the case and provide other evidence of financial need acceptable to the Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. Scholarship Committee.*
Awards will be made directly to the university on the recipient's behalf for educational expenses (as defined by the institution's financial aid office) for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Award amounts and number of awards vary year-to-year. Award recipients (as well as other applicants) are eligible to reapply in subsequent years.

The Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. reserves the right to reduce award amounts or to not award scholarships each year – if funding is limited, inaccessible or due to extenuation circumstances.

Scholarship awards will be announced in mid-summer 2026.

Eligibility and Application Requirements
All applicants must:
1. Be a woman enrolled as an undergraduate pursuing a bachelor's degree at one of the following institutions:
    a. American University
    b. The Catholic University of America
    c. University of the District of Columbia
    d. Gallaudet University
    e. The George Washington University

  f. Georgetown University

  g. Howard University

  h. Trinity Washington University

2. Be in good academic standing with a minimum grade point average (GPS) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

3. Have completed the equivalent of at least 12 credits as of the date the application is submitted and will have completed the equivalent of at least 25 credits at the start of the academic year for which the scholarship is requested. AP credits earned during high school education do not qualify toward the 12 and 25 credits requirement.

Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated by a committee who will score the applications based upon the following criteria: community involvement and leadership; financial need: GPA; relevant personal circumstance. Incomplete applications and applications, as well as recommendation letters, received after the deadline will not be considered.

Recommendation Letters

Two letters of recommendation are required. These are to be submitted directly to scholarshipundergrad@zontawashingtondc.org. We encourage you to contact your recommenders before submitting your application to confirm they are available to submit your recommendation letter on or before the May 1 deadline. You are responsible for ensuring that letters are submitted by the application deadline. Applications without the two letters of recommendation will not be considered.

Application Includes

We strongly encourage applicants to draft the essay questions in Word first and then copy and paste them into the Application Form.

1. Applicant Profile: your name, past recipient of a Zonta Club of Washington, DC scholarship, contact information, university, major, anticipated graduation date, GPA, credits, and an uploaded unofficial transcript. (Maximum score 10)

2. Essay Questions:

  a. Provide a narrative, 300 to 500 words, demonstrating self-development, long-term educational and professional goals, and commitment to your chosen profession. Please provide the word count at the end of your narrative. (Maximum score 25)

  b. Provide a narrative 300-500 words discussing professional organization participation and contributions, volunteer work, and examples that demonstrate your leadership at school, in the community, and/or to your chosen profession. Please provide the word count at the end of your narrative. (Maximum score 25)

  c. A narrative not to exceed 500 words describing how receipt of this scholarship would help you complete your undergraduate educational goals. Please provide the word count at the end of your narrative. (Maximum score 15)

3. Financial Need & Personal Circumstances

  a. Attach the front page of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA). The information, including the estimated family contribution or "EFC", provided in the Student Aid Report, is required. If there have been significant

changes to your financial situation since receiving your EFC, please explain. *If you cannot submit a copy of the FAFSA form, please explain why you're unable to do so and provide other evidence of financial need.* (Maximum score 15)

   b. Please include a narrative not to exceed 250 words regarding any personal circumstances that you feel will be helpful to the selection committee if applicable. (Optional) Please provide the word count at the end of your narrative. (Maximum score 10)

4. Recommendation Letters:
   a. Two (2) recommendation letters are required. It is your responsibility to reach out to your recommenders and ask them 1) to write you a letter of recommendation, 2) to remind them of the deadline which is 11:59 p.m. EST on May 1, and 3) to tell them where they need to submit the letter. Letters should be submitted by the recommender to scholarshipundergrad@zontawashingtondc.org directly.
   b. At least one of the recommendation letters must be from an advisor or faculty member from whom the candidate has taken college level courses at the current institution.
   c. For each recommender, please provide their name, title of their position, email address, and relationship to you.

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