

Charlottesville Scholarship Program (CSP) and Grace Tinsley Memorial Scholarship Program

2025 Application Information

Deadline to apply March 1, 2025

General Information

The Charlottesville Scholarship Program (CSP) and Grace Tinsley Memorial Scholarship Program offer eligible local residents an opportunity to apply for Charlottesville Promise and Grace Tinsley Scholarships each year by **March 1st**. Scholarships may be used for tuition, fees, and other educational expenses. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Personal statements and answers to essay questions should be the applicant's own work.

Charlottesville Promise Scholarships are renewable awards that can fund up to \$13,000 of the cost of a 2- or 4- year undergraduate degree program, master's degree program, or for a vocational training/professional certification program at an accredited technical school. First-year awards are typically \$2,500. CSP typically awards 9 new scholarships each year to seniors attending Charlottesville High School and residing in the City, 1 potential new scholarship each year to a graduating high school senior residing in the City and attending one of the City's alternative or non-traditional learning centers listed [here](#), and 1 potential additional new scholarship each year to an eligible adult student currently attending or planning to enroll in a post-secondary undergraduate program, master's degree program, or vocational training/professional certification program at an accredited technical school.

PLEASE NOTE: A new Preston Coiner Scholarship will NOT be awarded in 2025. One Preston Coiner award is available in any given year. As the current Preston Coiner Scholar is renewing, a new scholarship will not be awarded in 2025. We expect to be able to award a new renewable Preston Coiner Scholarship in 2028.

PLEASE NOTE: A new Scarpa Arts & Design Scholarship will NOT be awarded in 2025. One new renewable Scarpa Arts & Design Scholarship is offered every other year. This scholarship will be available again in 2026.

Grace Tinsley Scholarships are awarded for a student's first and second years of college. In 2024, first-year awards were \$2,500 and second-year awards were \$1,500. GT typically awards 4 new scholarships each year.

Who is Eligible?

Charlottesville Promise Scholarships

- Low- to Middle-Income Charlottesville City School System graduating high school seniors living in Charlottesville
- Low- to Middle-Income Charlottesville City School System high school graduates living in Charlottesville
- Low- to Middle-Income Charlottesville City School System GED recipients living in Charlottesville
- Low- to Middle-Income City of Charlottesville municipal employees, no matter where they live
- Low- to Middle-Income Charlottesville City School System employees, no matter where they live

Grace Tinsley Memorial Scholarships

- Low- to Middle-Income Charlottesville High School graduating seniors

Income Eligibility Requirements

The Charlottesville Scholarship Program and the Grace Tinsley Memorial Scholarship Program provide vocational/professional certification, undergraduate, and Master's degree scholarships (Charlottesville Promise only) and undergraduate scholarships (Preston Coiner, Scarpa, and Grace Tinsley only) to low- and moderate-income people in the Charlottesville community who wish to pursue post-secondary education, but who lack the financial resources to do so. To qualify for these need-based scholarships, the applicant's household income must be lower than the maximum income for the applicant's family size, as shown on the guidelines below.

PLEASE BE SURE TO REDACT ALL SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS FROM ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED WITH YOUR APPLICATION!

Family Size	Maximum Household Income
1	\$104,300
2	\$119,200
3	\$134,100
4	\$149,000
5	\$161,000
6	\$172,900
7	\$184,800
8	\$196,800
9	\$208,700
10	\$220,600

Questions?

Call 434.987.8338 or email scholars@cillescholarship.com for help with any of these scholarship programs. CHS seniors may also contact CHS Scholarship Coordinator Lois Burke (Lois.Burke@charlottesvilleschools.org, 434.245.2410) for assistance. Please do not wait until the last minute to ask for help!

Equal Opportunity Statement

In accordance with federal law and the law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Charlottesville Scholarship Program and Grace Tinsley Memorial Scholarship Program do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, military status, or disability.

Charlottesville Scholarship Program (CSP) and Grace Tinsley Memorial Scholarship Program 2025

Charlottesville Area Community Foundation

Scholarship Criteria

Applicant Name*

Character Limit: 100

Date of Birth*

Character Limit: 10

Please use the information below to determine which level scholarships you qualify for. Please select all that apply.

Charlottesville Promise Scholarships - renewable awards that can fund up to \$13,000 of the cost of beginning or completing a 2- or 4- year undergraduate degree or master's degree, or for a vocational training/professional certification program at a technical school. First-year awards are typically \$2,500.

Grace Tinsley Scholarships- awarded for a student's first and second years of college. In 2024, first-year awards were \$2,500 and second-year awards were \$1,500. GT typically awards 4 new scholarships each year.

Scholarship Level*

Please select all Scholarships you wish to be considered for.

Choices

Charlottesville Promise Scholarship
Grace Tinsley Scholarship

City Resident*

Are you a City of Charlottesville resident?

Choices

Yes
No

Check if you will be a First-Generation College Student (for informational purposes only)*

Choices

Yes

No

List your High School*

Character Limit: 50

Year of High School Graduation*

Character Limit: 50

Adult Applicant*

Are you employed by the City of Charlottesville or Charlottesville City Schools?

Choices

Yes

No

N/A

Adult Applicant*

Are you currently enrolled in a 2-year or 4-year college, master's degree program, or vocational/professional certification program?

Choices

Yes

No

N/A

Degree Seeking*

Choices

Master's

Bachelor's

Associate

Certificate

Other

Academic/Vocational Interest(s)*

Character Limit: 250

Name of post-secondary school you plan to attend*

Name of post-secondary school you plan to attend. Use full school names.

(If unknown, please list in order of preference the schools to which you have applied. If you have been waitlisted or accepted, please indicate.)

Character Limit: 200

Work Experience*

Describe your work experience during the past four years. Indicate the job title, dates of employment for each job, and approximate number of hours worked each week.

Character Limit: 1000

School Activities*

List all school activities in which you have participated during the past four years:
(Include years, hours per week, position held, and any awards received)

Character Limit: 1000

Personal Statement*

What are your goals for the future and how will post-secondary education help you achieve them? This is an opportunity to tell your story and to explain why you are an ideal scholarship candidate. You may use your college essay for this requirement if it addresses these topics.
(Limit your response to 250 words.)

Character Limit: 2000

Please answer the following short answer questions. Please DO NOT cover the same material you write about in your personal statement. We want to learn MORE about you and why you have chosen your particular post-secondary educational path.

Special Circumstance*

Describe how a specific experience, special circumstance, or activity in your life has shaped the choices you have made for your future education.
(Limit your response to 150 words.)

Character Limit: 1500

Special Circumstance*

Describe a specific challenge you have faced and how it has shaped your character.
(Limit your response to 150 words.)

Character Limit: 1500

Letter of Recommendation*

Attach a letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or non-family member who knows you well. If someone has prepared a college letter of recommendation for you, you may use that letter.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Certification*

I certify that the information I have provided on this application and on all supporting documentation is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If required, I agree to provide proof of this information. I certify that my personal statement and answers to short answer questions are my own original work. I realize that if all required documentation is not submitted by the posted deadline, I will not be considered for a Charlottesville Promise or Grace Tinsley Scholarship. If I receive a scholarship, the Charlottesville Scholarship Program

and/or Grace Tinsley Memorial Scholarship Program may make public my name (and that of my parent(s), guardian(s), or spouse, if applicable), the amount of the scholarship, the school I will be attending, and a brief summary of my qualifications and plans. I also agree to be contacted by CSP/Grace Tinsley representatives as appropriate. This agreement will be in effect as long as I am a scholarship recipient.

Choices

Yes

Financial Need

Please list any other awards, grants, scholarships you have been awarded:*

Name the Award and Amount.

Character Limit: 1000

Please attach your FAFSA, VASA, or Federal Income Information.*

Attach your FAFSA Submission Summary showing your SAI (Student Aid Index), **OR** your VASA Application PDF showing your SAI, **OR** the most recent Federal Income Tax Return from the person who claims you as a dependent. This documentation is required to verify that you meet income requirements. **Please make sure you have redacted all Social Security Numbers from this information!**

FAFSA NOTE: To access the FAFSA Submission Summary showing your SAI, please check on your FAFSA application regularly to confirm that your form is complete and has been processed successfully. You should also receive an email from the US Dept. of Education Office of Federal Student Aid when your Submission Summary is ready to view, with instructions for how to access an online copy. Please upload it as soon as you can.

VASA NOTE: To view your VASA SAI, please check your VASA application account regularly. You should select "Review and Update" under the appropriate "Satisfied" application. Your SAI will show above the application PDF link as well as in the application PDF above the "Certifications and Signatures" section, usually on the last page. For dependent students, there will likely be two application PDFs, so you should look for your SAI on the version that includes your parent's signature. Please upload it as soon as you can.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Transcript information

School Counselor Email Address*

Please compose an email to your Counselor requesting your transcript, and Cumulative GPA. Be sure to include your name and the due date in the email.

* If a current college student, please email yourself to receive the link to upload your transcript.
(a screenshot is acceptable)

Character Limit: 254

 **Cumulative GPA***

Cumulative Grade Point Average as of the end of the first semester senior year or most recently completed college semester.

Character Limit: 20

 **Please attach the applicant's transcript.***

File Size Limit: 1 MB