

THE CHARLOTTE W. NEWCOMBE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can I apply for a Newcombe Scholarship?

Applications open on February 20th, same as the WCU general scholarship application. The application deadline is scheduled for April 15th.

How many Newcombe scholarships are awarded each year, and how much is awarded?

There is no fixed number of Newcombe scholarships to be awarded. The number of awards generally corresponds to the amount of funding available during a given year. Historically, the number of scholarships awarded has been in the range of 20-30 per year, and are awarded in several different amounts, ranging from \$500 to \$3,500 for the year.

I also meet the eligibility criteria for the Alice Conway Memorial Scholarship, do I have to complete a separate application?

No. If you meet the criteria for the Alice Conway Memorial Scholarship, please use the same application as the Newcombe Scholarship, which can be accessed [here](#).

I also meet the eligibility criteria for the Jane Swan Scholarship, do I have to complete a separate application?

No. If you meet the criteria for the Jane Swan Scholarship, please use the same application as the Newcombe Scholarship, which can be accessed [here](#).

I will be graduating at the end of the Fall Semester 2023. Am I still eligible?

Yes. If you are enrolled in at least nine credits during the Fall semester of your graduation, you are still eligible. If selected, the full amount of your scholarship will be applied to your account during the fall semester.

I already have a Bachelor's degree. Am I still eligible?

Maybe. The primary intention of the scholarship program is to support undergraduate students taking courses leading to their first bachelor's degree. However, a portion of the awarded scholarships may be made to students enrolled in a second bachelor's degree programs or in post-bachelor's certification programs, if the degree or certificate is necessary to gain, maintain or improve employment. If this applies to you, please be sure to discuss it in your essay.

No Newcombe/Jane Swan/Conway Scholarships may be awarded for master's or doctoral degrees. **If you are in a five year joint degree program, you will only be eligible while you are considered an undergraduate student.**

What if I'm not currently enrolled in classes for the upcoming year?

You may *apply* for the scholarship without being enrolled in classes, but if you are selected to receive a scholarship, you *must* take a minimum of 9 credits each semester or the scholarship will be revoked.

I am a previous recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship. Can I reapply?

Yes! Prior recipients who still meet all of the eligibility requirements are welcome and encouraged to reapply.

What is a FAFSA, and where can I fill one out?

Applicants for the Charlotte W. Newcombe/Jane Swan/Alice Conway Scholarships **MUST** fill out and submit a FAFSA and submit the FAFSA by **March 31st**.

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Anyone who wants financial aid for college needs to fill out a FAFSA. All federal grant and loan awards are determined by the FAFSA, and nearly all colleges use the FAFSA as the basis for their own financial aid awards. You may fill out a FAFSA online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. Paper FAFSA applications are available at WCU's Office of Financial Aid. Contact the Office of Financial Aid via email at Finaid@wcupa.edu on instructions on how to access a paper FAFSA.

I'm an international student, so I don't file a FAFSA. Can I still apply?

Yes! International Students will need to complete and submit a paper copy of the FAFSA. Also, please describe in your essay the financial responsibilities that make it difficult to attend or stay in college. The selection committee members award scholarship amounts based on financial need.

Do you have any tips for writing a great application essay?

Of course! The essay is the portion of the application that provides the selection committee with the opportunity to get to know you best. We offer it as an opportunity to discuss how the scholarship funds would support completion of your educational goals.

We have split the application essay into two parts. In the first part, please provide what you think would be important for the committee to know about your life circumstances. We invite you to think about the things in your life that make it challenging for you to attend and stay in college. These reasons might include financial support and/or caregiving for children or others, illness, insecure housing, loss of employment or inability to find suitable employment. In your this part, please focus on discussing the impact of those challenges on your ability to achieve your goals. The maximum word requirement is 250 words for this part.

In the second part of the application essay, we want you to make a direct connection between your educational goals and your future career goals. The selection committee wants to understand the why behind your degree and your next steps, and how this scholarship can move those goals forward. There is no maximum word requirement for this section, but we invite you to be brief, in the range of 250-500 words.

Consider making an appointment with the Writing Center for assistance during all parts of the essay process. You can make an appointment by visiting <https://www.wcupa.edu/academics/writingcenter/>. The Writing Center offers online appointments. For WCU Philadelphia students, the Student Success Center offers appointments virtually for the Spring. You can make an appointment or learn more by visiting <https://www.wcupa.edu/admin/philly/studentsuccess.aspx>.

The Center for Women & Gender Equity and the Student Success Center for WCU Philadelphia will be hosting scholarship information sessions and workshops on writing effective personal statements, dates and times TBA by the scholarship opening date.

Where do I turn in my application?

Completed applications should be submitted via the [online application](#) by the deadline.

How are decisions made about who will receive the scholarships?

All applications will be reviewed by a committee of faculty and staff from across West Chester University community, including staff from the Center for Women & Gender Equity, Office of Financial Aid, and the WCU Foundation. Committee members will consider specific needs of students in determining the size, range and number of awards.

When should I expect to be notified of whether or not I received the scholarship?

All students will be notified of the status of their application by June 30th via email.

Is there anything else I need to do if I am selected for an award?

Yes. You will be asked to send a letter of appreciation to the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation. You will also be asked to attend programs designed to support Newcombe Scholars. Details of upcoming events will be distributed via e-mail. The Charlotte Newcombe Scholarship Program is designed to help you succeed academically and support the career development process. Attendance at least one of these programs is mandatory to maintain your scholarship and be awarded future scholarships. If you can't attend an event, you will work with the Associate Director of the Center for Women & Gender Equity to find another program. For examples of events held in 2022-2023 and earlier, [visit the CW&GE Youtube page](#).