

## **DISTINGUISHED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS**

### ***For June 2026 Niagara County High School Graduates***

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The Distinguished Student Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship awarded to incoming freshman at SUNY Niagara. Applicants must be graduating from a Niagara County High School and meet the criteria listed below.

**Scholarship Award:** 2 years “tuition-free” education

**Criteria:**

1. Applicant must be graduating from a Niagara County high school (includes Homeschool) with a Regents diploma in June with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or a B (83-85) weighted average.
2. Applicant must be planning to enroll as a full-time matriculated student at SUNY Niagara for the fall semester of the year the award is issued.
3. Applicant must have previous volunteer community service and demonstrated involvement in high school activities (Include in essay).
4. Applicant must provide assurance that he or she plans to remain in or return to Niagara County after completion of his/her education and future volunteer commitments (Include in essay).

**Procedure:**

1. Submit all required information by the deadline date to the NCCC Foundation Office located within the Notar Administration building. The required information includes: the Distinguished Student Scholarship application, official high school transcripts, an essay, up to two pages, addressing the topics on the essay section, and two (2) letters of recommendation.
2. Submit the DSS application to your guidance counselor for signature as well as completion of academic standing, confirmation of a Regents diploma and inclusion of official transcript; it is the student's responsibility to ensure the application is postmarked and/or received at NCCC Foundation office by the due date below.

**Scholarship Requirements:**

1. You must start the Financial Aid FAFSA application online even if you and your parent's taxes are not complete so that your scholarship need can be accurately determined.
2. The scholarship award is determined after financial aid is applied. Should a student receive full financial aid (Federal and State free aid), he/she will receive the distinction of the Distinguished Student Scholarship, and the award will be \$500 per semester.
3. Completion of full time study (minimum of 12 credit hours) each semester.
4. Maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA each semester including CAP classes. If the GPA is under the required 3.0 after one of the four semesters, funding will be ceased at that point.
5. While enrolled as a student, volunteer at yearly Foundation events.

**Contact:** Your High School Guidance Counseling Office or the NCCC Foundation Office located within the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Notar Administration Building at 716.614.5910.

**Submission:** Submit a copy all required information to the NCCC Scholarship Office. It must be received or postmarked by the deadline date of **Friday, March 20, 2026**.