



A Fund of Foundation for the Carolinas

## **2026 GORDON HAY SCHOLARSHIP Procedures and Guidelines**

Each year the Gordon Hay Scholarship Committee selects a high school senior or college underclassman to receive a unique scholarship of up to \$10,000. The Gordon Hay Scholarship benefits a student within the Charlotte or Knoxville region who demonstrates technical or artistic accomplishment in a non-performance area of the performing arts. To be eligible, the student must be intent on pursuing a career in the performing arts.

For purposes of the scholarship, performing arts is broadly defined to include a range of disciplines which are performed in front of a live audience, including theatre, immersive arts experiences, music and dance. The range of non-performing disciplines eligible for the scholarship includes costume, lighting, sound and set design, stage management and direction, choreography and other technical non-performing roles. Students pursuing careers primarily in the education or film production fields are not eligible for the scholarship.

The award is designed to be used for special learning opportunities related to the recipient's ambitions for a career in theater. Opportunities include but are not limited to professional conferences, seminars, workshops, participation in unpaid internship programs, technological equipment, books, supplies and professional performances. The award may not be utilized for tuition, class fees or college living expenses.

Allocation of the award will be administered by the Education Department of Blumenthal Arts. To draw from the award account, the recipient must submit a formal request for approval to Blumenthal's Education Department. It is possible for a recipient to utilize the entire award amount within the first year of college or to occasionally draw from the account as opportunities arise within a four-year undergraduate career. If the total amount of the award is not used during the undergraduate experience, the award recipient will not be entitled to a cash settlement upon graduation.

The Gordon Hay Scholarship Committee will consider the following when selecting scholarship finalists:

- career potential in a non-performance path in theater as evidenced by a portfolio presentation and appropriate references
- academic performance
- evidence of the pursuit of personal excellence
- school and community engagement
- desire to enrich the lives of others through the performing arts
- financial need

### **Eligibility**

- Student must be a graduating high school senior, college freshman, or college sophomore at the time of application.
- Student must be preparing to pursue or currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in a non-performance discipline of theater (e.g. set/lighting/sound/costume design, stage management, choreography, direction, etc.).
- High school seniors must reside within 125 miles of Charlotte, NC or Knoxville, TN.

## Application Process

1. Application packets must contain:
  - a. completed scholarship application form (typed responses only)
  - b. typed one-to-two-page essay detailing why the applicant wishes to pursue their desired degree, their aspirations for their future career in theater, and any initial thoughts on how they may consider using the scholarship funds to enhance their educational pursuit.
  - c. copy of student's 2026-2027 Student Aid Report with SAI (detailed with SAI number)\*
  - d. reference form and recommendation letter from a current teacher or industry professional
  - e. headshot (or close-up digital photo) for purpose of press release upon recipient selection
  - f. copy of financial aid award letter(s)
  - g. HS SENIORS ONLY: most recent high school transcript (scan or photocopy; no camera shots)
  - h. HS SENIORS ONLY: copy of college acceptance letter(s)
2. From the total number of applicants, the Scholarship Committee will select finalists to continue to the interview portion of the application process. All applicants will be notified of their finalist status no later than March 27, 2026.
3. Select finalists will be invited to a virtual Gordon Hay Scholarship Interview on **Monday, April 20, 2026**.
  - a. Portfolio presentation and interview times will be assigned no later than April 3.
  - b. All portfolio presentations will be scheduled in 14-minute intervals. (Students should take no more than 7 minutes for the portfolio presentation to allow 7 minutes for questions by the committee.)
  - c. Portfolios may include show programs, photos, letters of appreciation or commendation, illustrations, memorabilia which portray artistry, ability, and other relevant items. Applicants will present via a zoom meeting.
4. All finalists will be notified by April 23, 2026 of their scholarship recipient status.

\*Student Aid Report (SAR) is a document stating basic information about a student's eligibility for federal student aid based on their answers to Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) questions. With the assistance of parents, students applying for the Gordon Hay Scholarship are encouraged to complete and submit to appropriate government offices their respective tax returns and completed FAFSA forms no later than mid-February in order to meet the Scholarship application deadline. Typically, the SAR will be received within two weeks of filing the FAFSA form. (FAFSA information may be accessed at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).)

If you have questions or need assistance, please email [educationdepartment@blumenthalarts.org](mailto:educationdepartment@blumenthalarts.org).

**All application packets must be received by March 18, 2026.**

Complete application packets must be submitted via emailed to: [educationdepartment@blumenthalarts.org](mailto:educationdepartment@blumenthalarts.org)