

2026 MARY DOCTOR FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Procedures and Guidelines

The Mary Doctor Fine Arts Scholarship Committee annually selects one or two students to receive scholarships of up to \$10,000 each. The Mary Doctor Fine Arts Scholarship (MDFAS) benefits selected graduating seniors within the Charlotte region who demonstrate above-average ability and great interest in one or more areas fine arts. Scholarships are paid directly to the recipient's college or university and are designated for tuition, on-campus housing, meal plans, required fees, books, and supplies. Scholarships are not to be used for off-campus housing, off-campus meals, or any other purpose. Scholarships are awarded for one year but may be renewed for up to three years of undergraduate study provided funds are available and recipients continue to enroll full-time each term as students in good academic and behavioral standing.

The Scholarship Committee will consider the following when selecting finalists:

- *financial need*
- audition or portfolio presentation and interview
- apparent potential for a successful career in the arts
- desire to enrich the lives of others through the arts
- personal achievements
- academic performance
- school and community involvement

Student Eligibility

- must be a 2026 graduating high school senior
- must be pursuing an undergraduate degree in an arts discipline (e.g. music, dance, theatre, technical theatre, film, digital arts, studio arts, arts administration, arts education, etc.)
- must reside in one of the following Charlotte-area counties: Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union, Chester (SC), Chesterfield (SC), Lancaster (SC), York (SC)

Application Process

1. Application packets must contain:
 - a. completed scholarship application form
 - b. one-page or less (*.pdf only*) essay in response to the following prompt: "*You have now graduated college, what is your big dream?*"
 - c. one-page or less (*.pdf only*) personal statement sharing any pertinent details regarding:
 - financial need
 - potential for a career in the arts
 - academic performance
 - desire to enrich the lives of others through arts
 - personal achievements
 - school and community involvement

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- d. most recent transcript from applicant's high school (photocopies; no camera shots)
 - e. copy of student's 2026-2027 Student Aid Report with SAI (detailed with SAI number)*
 - f. reference form and recommendation letter from a current teacher or industry professional
 - g. copy of college acceptance letter and financial aid award letters received to date
 - h. headshot (or close-up digital photo) for purpose of press release upon recipient selection
2. From the total number of applicants, the scholarship committee will select finalists. All applicants will be notified of their finalist status no later than Friday, April 3, 2025.
3. Finalists will be invited to attend the **Wednesday, April 15, 2026 MDFAS Auditions/Presentations** at the Stage Door Theater in Charlotte, NC. Finalists must be present to be considered for the scholarship.
- a. Audition/portfolio presentation and interview times will be assigned to finalists no later than April 6 according to logistical concerns (e.g. grouping performers who request an accompanist).
 - b. All finalists will be scheduled in fourteen-minute intervals beginning at 3 PM and concluding no later than 7 PM. Up to seven minutes will be allotted to the student's audition or portfolio presentation; the remaining time will be allotted for discussion with the committee.
 - c. Performance applicants may perform up to two art forms (sing, dance, play instrument, perform monologue, etc.) if the audition does not exceed seven minutes. Audio playback and piano will be available. Finalists may request an accompanist or provide their own.
 - d. Non-performance finalists (stage managers, costume/set/lighting designers, directors, composers, potential performing arts teachers, etc.) may present portfolios which include show programs, photos, letters of appreciation or commendation, illustrations, and memorabilia portraying artistry, skill, and/or aptitude. A screen with HDMI connection will be available for digital presentations.
4. All finalists will be notified by April 17, 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 Mary Doctor Fine Arts 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.)

If you have questions or need assistance, please email educationdepartment@blumenthalarts.org.

**All MDFAS application packets must be received digitally to
educationdepartment@blumenthalarts.org by March 18th, 2026.
Only complete applications packets will be considered.**