

Hagan Scholarship High School Guidance Counselor FAQ (2 of 2)

Where can I find detailed information? Information on requirements, a list of eligible high schools and process can be found under the tabs for Scholarship Information, Eligible Schools and Application tab. The General Information tab includes compelling statistics on the current Hagan Scholars and our alumni.

What should I know before encouraging a student to apply? The Hagan Scholarship criteria does not allow for exceptions to basic criteria as it is designed to assist high-achieving students with financial need. Students should only apply if they meet the basic criteria for GPA, be Pell Grant eligible, and attend an eligible high school. Those students who qualify based on their initial application will receive a request for mandatory supplemental financial need information for the second step of evaluation.

Does the Hagan Foundation only want our very top student in the class? No! It is common to award multiple scholarships to recipients from the same school and students who are not necessarily the very top student in a class. The scholarship is focused on high-achieving, goal-driven, needy students meeting the basic requirements and submitting a complete, thoughtful application.

Why are requirements so specific? The Foundation sponsor feels very strongly about serving a particular group of students, reflecting his personal background and philosophy. He also wants to reward students who have created a foundation of success for themselves through their initiative.

How can my students maximize their potential for receiving a scholarship? Qualified applicants following ALL directions as exactly as possible will have the best chance for success. The Foundation sponsor feels strongly that students who take the time to complete their application as directed have the best characteristics for success. Qualified applicants who take the time to do a thoughtful essay, complete four-year plan and include any exceptional circumstances in their lives will strengthen their opportunities to win a scholarship.

How long does it take to complete the application? Submitting a thoughtful, complete application and gathering required materials for the original application (transcript, letter of reference, signed forms from parents, school officials and references) can take up to 8-10 hours depending on the student. Encourage your students to begin well before the deadline, allow time to gather everything needed and take the time to do thoughtful essays and four-year plans according to directions.

What exceptional circumstances may receive consideration? The Hagan Foundation wants to assist high-achieving students from rural areas with high need. Special consideration is given to those who are independent, first-generation, from single-parent families or who have overcome significant challenges in their lives but these special circumstances are NOT a requirement to receive the scholarship, nor will they replace basic criteria of GPA, financial need and a complete application.

What additional information will be requested from students? The original application establishes basic eligibility. For those who meet that criteria, the Foundation will then ask for supplemental information related to family need. This will include information on family and student net worth, the FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) information and tax information from the family.

How is confidential information handled? The scholarship foundation uses protected servers and careful procedures to ensure confidentiality of personal and financial information. That is why all materials are uploaded and not shared by email.

Are there any exceptions to submission of financial information in case parents are hesitant about providing the information? There are no exceptions to the supplemental financial information. The Foundation sponsor wants to help high need students graduate with little or no debt. He feels family financial net worth has an impact on a family's ability to pay for college and he wants to focus his resources on those who have limited ability to pay for college either from current income or family equity, hence the family net worth requirement and the request for tax documents. Applicants with special situations or questions about the supplemental financial information may send an email to outreach@scholarship.org to avoid submitting an incomplete set of information.

Once a student receives the scholarship, why are there such detailed renewal criteria and additional annual submission of materials? The Foundation sponsor is focused on truly helping students succeed academically and personally. He has studied the best literature on college success and established follow-up requirements and renewal criteria designed to help a student graduate in a timely manner, set reasonable but significant goals for college GPA and credit hour completion and thoughtful reflection to help students maintain goals. The investment training and criteria to qualify for the Study Abroad and the final seed money for investments are all designed to promote long-term personal growth and financial success.

What if I have additional questions? Feel free to email outreach@hsfmo.org if you have any questions. Our Outreach Coordinator, Lynn Stichnote, is here to support high school counselors and help you send more qualified applicants to help us reach our goal of awarding 600 new scholarships for the 2021-2022 class of high school seniors.



Hagan Scholarship Foundation
PO Box 1225
Columbia, MO 65205
www.hsfmo.org