

Leg Up Scholarship Program 2023-24

TPI Scholarship Site

Scholarship Description

The Leg Up Scholarship Program is a scholarship program that aims to support students from Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Lynn, or Medford Massachusetts to excel in college and launch their careers. It is a unique scholarship program that provides flexible and individualized financial and social support to students to help them maximize their academic and social experiences in college and to achieve their long-term goals. Leg Up Scholars graduate from college prepared to take on life's challenges and opportunities, and do so with limited to no student debt.

The program is funded by Doreen Portnoy Bilezikian, born in Chelsea MA, and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI).

Thank you for your interest in the Leg Up Scholarship Program. Please read these instructions **carefully** before filling out your application. Applicants' ability to follow instruction will weigh into award decisions.

Complete applications are due **Monday, May 15, 2023 by 5PM EST.**

Requirements

Applicants must:

1. be a senior or recent high school graduate
2. be enrolling as a first year student in a competitive four-year degree program, at a US accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university full-time in 2023-2024
3. have an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$5,000 or less and no more than \$20,000 in loans over their college career
4. have a superior high school academic record; involvement in community, school and work activities; and motivation to excel in college (minimum cumulative 3.4 GPA on 4.0 scale, or equivalent)

Application Materials:

- **Application Submitted Online**
- **Extracurricular Information or Resume**
- **Essay** – A writing sample that reflects the student's personal history and aspirations for the future (e.g. college application essays or personal statement)

- **Letter of Recommendation** (from a teacher, guidance counselor, work supervisor, community leader, coach, or any other non-family member who knows the student well)
- **High School Transcript**
- **College Acceptance Letter**
- **Financial Aid Award Letter**
- **FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)** – The ENTIRE document must be submitted.

Instructions

Completing your application

- Application materials can be found on TPI's website: <https://www.tpi.org/scholarships-college-success/>
- To preview the application, click on the **Print Questions** button in the upper right-hand corner. You should do this prior to beginning the application to review the questions.
- Click the **Save as Draft** button at the bottom of the page to save your responses. To return to your application on a later date, log in and click on your application under your contact information. It will be marked Draft until you submit it.
- Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required. You will not be able to submit your application until all required questions are answered.
- If you would like to save a copy of this application, click on **Application Packet** button at the top of the page.
- Recommender must upload a letter of recommendation to the student's online application.

Submitting your application:

- All attachments must be submitted in **.pdf, .doc, or .docx** format.
- You must submit your application for it to be considered. Once you submit your application, you will receive an email confirming its receipt. If you do not receive this email, then it has not been properly submitted and will not be reviewed. Log back into your account to submit, or email legupscholars@tpi.org.
- To request a recommendation, enter the email address of your reference in the space provided, then click "Compose Email" to send them an email requesting a reference. They will receive an email from the system which will include a link for them to click on and answer questions.

- Your recommenders will continue to have access to submit their materials even after you click "submit." You do not need to wait for your recommendations to be complete in order to submit your application.

Important: Review your application before clicking "submit". Make sure all attachments are uploaded in **.pdf, .doc, or .docx** format, and your answers are complete and clear. Click on the "Application Packet" button to view your application in the form the reviewers will see it. **Applications that have blank, unreadable attachments, or don't load correctly will not be considered.** Please note that **.jpeg files are not able to be viewed**. It is important that you look over your application to make sure everything has been properly submitted.

If you have any questions or need help uploading forms to your application, please contact Elaines Pena at legupscholars@tpi.org or 617-338-5897.

Student Information

Applicant Legal First and Last Name*

Please enter your name exactly as it appears on official documents.

Character Limit: 250

Preferred Name or Nickname

Character Limit: 100

Gender: How do you identify?*

Choices

Male

Female

Nonbinary

Other

Preferred Pronouns*

Choices

He/Him

She/Her

They/Them

Date of Birth*

Example: 01/01/2005

Character Limit: 25

Ethnicity*

Are you of Hispanic or Latino descent? (Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture)

Choices

Yes

No

Race*

Regardless of your answer to the prior question, please check one of the following groups you consider yourself a member:

Choices

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

White (including Middle Eastern)

Multi-racial

What is your citizenship status?***Choices**

US Citizen

US Permanent Resident ("Green Card" Holder)

Were you born in the U.S.?***Choices**

Yes

No

Country of Origin

If you were not born in the U.S., where were you born?

Character Limit: 25

List your family household members:*

Please list the people who live in your household including parent(s), sibling(s), etc. Please include their Name, Relationship To You, Age, Occupation (job title, school, other). *e.g. Jane Smith, mother, 52, Personal Care Assistant.*

Character Limit: 5000

Parent Contribution*

How much will your parent(s)/ guardian(s) be contributing financially to the cost of college? If you live in a single parent household, what is your relationship with your other parent? Will your other parent be contributing financially to the cost of college? Please explain briefly.

Character Limit: 5000

Are you among the first-generation in your immediate family to complete a bachelor's degree?*

A first-generation college student is defined as a student whose parent(s) have not completed a bachelor's degree (this does not include your siblings).

Choices

Yes

No

What is your first parent's/ guardian's highest level of education?*

Choices

Unknown

Middle School

High School

Some College

College (2 year)

College (4 year)

Graduate School

What is your second parent's/ guardian's highest level of education?*

Choices

Unknown

Middle School

High School

Some College

College (2 year)

College (4 year)

Graduate School

High School Information

High School: Name*

Character Limit: 150

High School: Location*

City, State

Character Limit: 150

High School: Year of Graduation*

Character Limit: 4

High School GPA- Unweighted*

If school does not provide unweighted GPAs please enter "0." We will consider this a "N/A" response.

Character Limit: 20

High School GPA- Weighted*

If school does not provide weighted GPAs please enter "0." We will consider this a "N/A" response.

Character Limit: 20

GPA- Other

If your High School GPA is not calculated on a 4.0 scale, please indicate the scale used (*e.g. 4.5, 5.0, 100, etc.*).

Character Limit: 10

GPA- Additional Information

If there were any changes to GPA calculation this year due to circumstances surrounding the pandemic, please briefly explain here.

Character Limit: 250

Class Rank

Character Limit: 50

Class Size

Character Limit: 50

College Plans

Applicants to the Leg Up Scholarship must be planning to enroll in a full-time course of study leading to a baccalaureate degree at a four-year college or university in the U.S.

College/University you will attend in the 2023-24 school year:*

Character Limit: 100

First Choice College - Location*

City, State

Character Limit: 100

Additional College Choices

If you have not made a final decision on where you will be attending in the Fall please list the schools you are still considering and when you expect to make a final decision (*e.g. Boston University, Boston, I am still waiting for a decision*).

Character Limit: 250

Anticipated Major/Field of Study*

What is your anticipated course of study in college? (*e.g. biology, finance, communications, etc.*)

Character Limit: 100

College: Living Situation*

Choices

Live on campus

Live off campus

Live at home with parent(s)

Financial Information

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)*

Can be found on line #85 of the FAFSA Student Aid Report. If the number is not available in your FAFSA Student Aid Report, please reference your parents 1040 or other tax documents.

Character Limit: 20

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)*

This number can be found on the first page of the FAFSA Student Aid Report.

Character Limit: 20

Other Scholarships*

Please list any other scholarships you have been awarded, that are not listed on your financial aid award letter. Include the scholarship name, type of support and amount of the award. Indicate if the scholarship is a one-year award or renewable for four-years. *Examples include: Gates Scholarship, Posse, Yawkey, Thrive/Noonan Scholars.*

Character Limit: 250

Extracurricular Information

Please fill out the following information about your extracurricular, community/volunteer, and work experiences.

A sample entry could look like this:

Work

Sunshine Camp; summer camp counselor; June 25, 2017-August 31, 2017; 30 hours per week for 8 weeks; \$2,000.

Activities, Awards & Honors

Memorial High School Marching Band; trumpet player; grades 10, 11, 12; 4 hours per week for 3 months.

Community/Volunteer

Brookside Elementary School; first grade reading tutor; grades 11 & 12; 6 hours per week after school for 4 months.

If you don't have anything to list in a particular section please write N/A.

If you would prefer, you may attach your resume below instead of filling out the individual fields.

Resume

You are welcome to include a copy of your resume instead of filling out the information below if you feel it provides a better representation of your experiences.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Work

Describe your work experience **during the past four years** (e.g., food server, babysitting, lawn mowing, office work). Indicate dates of employment for each job and approximate number of hours worked each week. List amounts earned at each job.

Character Limit: 3000

Activities, Awards & Honors

List all activities in which you have participated during high school (e.g., student government, clubs, associations, sports, etc.). Please list the most recent first. Note all special awards, honors and offices held.

Character Limit: 3000

Community Service/Volunteer Activities

List all community activities in which you have participated without pay in the past four years including name of organization, dates of participation and specific activities.

Character Limit: 3000

Essays

Long Essay*

Please attach your college application essay. If you haven't completed your college application essay, please share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design that helps the scholarship

review committee get to know you better. Please upload your essay in **.pdf, .doc, or .docx** file format only.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Short Essay #1* (250 words or less)

- Please briefly describe your academic and career ambitions.

Character Limit: 5000

Required Attachments

Please attach the following **required attachments**. If you do not have any of the required materials, please upload a word document explaining that, and email the missing materials to **legupscholars@tpi.org** as soon as they are available.

Transcript: Transcripts must be received by the application deadline. Online transcripts may be uploaded to your application and must display the following information:

- student name
- school name
- grade received
- the term in which each course was taken

If your school does not provide transcripts to students, please upload a word document explaining that, and have your school email your transcript to **legupscholars@tpi.org**.

Transcript: Unofficial or Official?*

Which type of transcript are you attaching?

Choices

Official

Unofficial

School will email or mail transcript

Transcript*

File Size Limit: 2 MB

College Acceptance Letter*

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Financial Aid Award Letter*

File Size Limit: 2 MB

FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)*

Please attach a copy of your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) in .pdf format. We can not accept web pages, html, or jpeg documents. You can obtain a copy by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov and printing/saving your entire SAR.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Certification

All of the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Electronic Signature of Applicant*

Please type your full name.

Character Limit: 50

Today's Date*

Character Limit: 10

Electronic Signature of Parent/ Guardian*

Please enter your full name.

Character Limit: 50

Today's Date*

Character Limit: 10

Once your application is submitted, you may view your application at any time by returning to your online account. However, you will not be able to make any changes.

Recommendation

Recommender's Email Address*

Please enter the email address of your recommender below, and click "Compose Email" to send them a personal email asking them to be a reference. Do not put your own email address here. Your recommender will receive an automated second email from this system that will include a link for them to click on and answer questions. Below are generic instructions for you to copy and paste into your email if you'd like to use them. If your recommender did not receive an email then first ask them to check their spam folder. If the email isn't there ask him or her to follow up with me directly at legupscholars@tpi.org.

Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for me for the Leg Up Scholarship. You'll

receive another email from administrator@grantinterface.com which will include a link. This link will provide instructions on how to upload your recommendation to my application. The application is due by 5PM on Monday May 15, 2023.

Character Limit: 254

Attach Recommendation Letter*

Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for an applicant to the Leg Up Scholarship. Please include your name, position & relationship to student below, write a letter of recommendation, and upload it using the link below. As part of your letter, please answer the following questions:

- Please describe the student's ability and motivation to succeed in college.
- What are your impressions of the applicant as a person? How is he or she viewed by peers and/or professors? How does the applicant interact with others? Please describe any special personal strengths or problems which we should be aware. We are especially interested in your thoughts regarding citizenship, leadership, and general promise.

Please note the applicant will not be able to read the recommendation.

Deadline for feedback is 05/15/2023 by 5 PM EST

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Recommender's Full Name*

Character Limit: 250

Recommender's position/title*

Character Limit: 250

How long have you known the applicant?*

Character Limit: 250

In what capacity do you know the applicant?*

Character Limit: 250