

Progress Software Corporation- Mary Székely Scholarship 2025-26

TPI Scholarship Site

Scholarship Description

About: Progress is the trusted provider of AI-powered digital experiences and infrastructure software to help businesses achieve their goals. With Progress products, customers can develop, deploy and manage responsible AI-powered applications and digital experiences with agility and ease. We work hard every day to positively impact our people, our communities and our planet. These three pillars form the foundation of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, Progress for Tomorrow.

We created the Progress Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM to commemorate Mary Székely (pronounced: “See-kay”), who served as the company’s cofounder and lead technologist for more than 30 years. Mary was instrumental in Progress becoming known as the trusted provider of infrastructure software products—which we continue to this day. Her love for math and science was influential on our industry at a time when it was rare for women to pursue careers in STEM. Mary passed away in June 2019 and left an indelible mark on those who had the opportunity to work with her.

The scholarship is awarded to a single recipient annually.

Award: \$10,000 scholarship to cover tuition, fees and educational expenses. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years while pursuing an undergraduate degree.

Selection of Recipients: The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI), a division of The Boston Foundation, oversees the management of the scholarship and ensures it complies with IRS rules for awarding scholarships.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen on the basis of academic achievement; financial need; interest and experience in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems; and personal attributes that exemplify Mary Székely’s qualities, including, but not limited to a strong work ethic, high personal integrity and a passion for learning. Each recipient must have the desire to become what Mary Székely was: a leader, mentor and innovator.

Timeline:

- Complete applications are due on **Friday, April 11, 2025, by 5pm.**
- Selected applicants will be invited for interviews in late April/early May.
- Scholarship recipient will be notified in early June.
- Scholarship applicants not selected will be notified of decisions via email in early June.
- Scholarship recipient will be publicly announced by Progress in June.

Renewing the Scholarship:

Scholarship recipients are eligible to renew their scholarship for up to four years in a five-year period while pursuing an undergraduate degree, provided the following requirements are met:

- Submit year-end transcripts
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent)
- Remain enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school
- Maintain a major in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems
- A student may take up to one academic year off from enrollment in college and remain eligible to retain their scholarship provided all four years of the scholarship are completed within five years from the date of the original award

Revisions: TPI and Progress reserve the right to review the eligibility and terms of this scholarship and to make changes at any time, including termination of the program.

Thank you for your interest in the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM. Please read these instructions carefully before filling out your application.

Questions/Comments: Please contact progress@tpi.org.

Complete applications are due Wednesday, April 11, 2025, by 5PM.

Requirements

ELIGIBILITY**Requirements:**

The recipient of the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM scholarship recipient must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a woman and resident of Massachusetts and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident eligible for federal financial aid
- Plan to major in **computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems**
- Have a financial need

- Be a high school senior OR high school graduate who plans to enroll OR is currently enrolled in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school
- Have a cumulative high school unweighted GPA above 3.2 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent)
- Have a desire to make meaningful contribution in the fields of **computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems**

Exclusions:

- Progress employees, board members and their families are not eligible
- Students in graduate school are not eligible

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following materials are required. Only complete applications will be considered.

1. **Completed and submitted** application online
2. **One essay** is required.
 - a. Essay Prompt (500-1000 words)
 - i. We seek to award this scholarship to an individual that exemplifies the qualities of Mary Székely: a dedicated trailblazer and empathetic leader with a passion for math and science. Please share your passion for STEM, where it started, and what you hope to achieve. Additionally, please dedicate some of your essay to how you have had a positive impact on others through any volunteering, mentorship, and community engagement. Any initiatives related to STEM are a plus!
3. **High School Transcript** (must have a cumulative unweighted GPA above 3.2 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent).
4. **Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher attesting to the student's passion and commitment to achieving their goals.
5. **Resume**
6. **Submission Summary from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
7. **Financial Aid Award Letter** from a top choice college (if available)

Instructions

Completing your application

- 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 **progress@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. The recipient will receive an email from the system which will include a link for them to click, answer questions and upload their letter of recommendation.
- Your recommender will continue to be able to submit their letter even after you click "submit." You do not need to wait for your recommendation to be uploaded 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 missing information, 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 documents to your application, please contact Grace Hollander at progress@tpi.org.

Student Demographic Information

Your responses to the demographic questions below are voluntary. The collection of data informs our understanding of the applicant population. However, the requested data is not considered in the scholarship selection process.

Race/Ethnicity*

Choices

American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Black or African American
Hispanic or Latino
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Multi-racial
White (including Middle Eastern)
Prefer not to answer

Legal Status*

Choices

U.S. Citizen
Permanent Resident Alien

Is English your first language?*

Choices

Yes
No

Other*

How did you learn about this scholarship?*

Choices

High School or Guidance Counselor
After school or summer program
College contact
Friend
Internet search
Social media
Current/past scholarship recipient
Other

If other, how did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

Character Limit: 50

Student Contact Information

Applicant Legal First Name*

Character Limit: 100

Applicant Legal Last Name*

Character Limit: 100

Gender*

Please note that this scholarship is open only to young women in Massachusetts.

Choices

Man

Woman

Date of Birth*

Example: 01/01/2005

Character Limit: 10

Family/Household Information

Student Aid Index (SAI)*

You can find this on your FAFSA Submission Summary.

Character Limit: 20

Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)*

You can find this on your FAFSA Submission Summary. Please include a dollar amount.

If you do not have access to this figure in your FAFSA Submission Summary, you can find it on line 7 of your 1040 tax form. If your family uses another version of the 1040 form, you can figure out how to find your AGI here: <https://turbotax.intuit.com/tax-tips/irs-tax-return/how-to-find-your-adjusted-gross-income-agi-to-e-file-your-tax-return/L2BNspAbm>

Character Limit: 20

Number of Family Members Supported by Family Income

Character Limit: 2

Number of Immediate Family Members in College in 2025-26

Character Limit: 2

High School Information

High School: Name*

Character Limit: 150

High School: Location*

City, State

Character Limit: 100

High School: Month and Year of Graduation *

Example: 05/2025 (May 2025)

Character Limit: 7

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

College Choice(s)

Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited university, college, community college or trade school in 2025-26.

Please list, in order of preference, the university, college, community college or trade school you hope to attend in the fall of 2025.

First Choice College - Name*

Character Limit: 100

First Choice College - Location*

City, State

Character Limit: 100

First Choice College - Application Status*

Have you been accepted to your First Choice College?

Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

Second Choice College - Name

Character Limit: 100

Second Choice College - Location

City, State

Character Limit: 100

Second Choice - Application Status

Have you been accepted to your Second Choice College?

Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

Third Choice College - Name

Character Limit: 100

Third Choice College - Location

City, State

Character Limit: 100

Third Choice - Application Status

Have you been accepted to your Third Choice College?

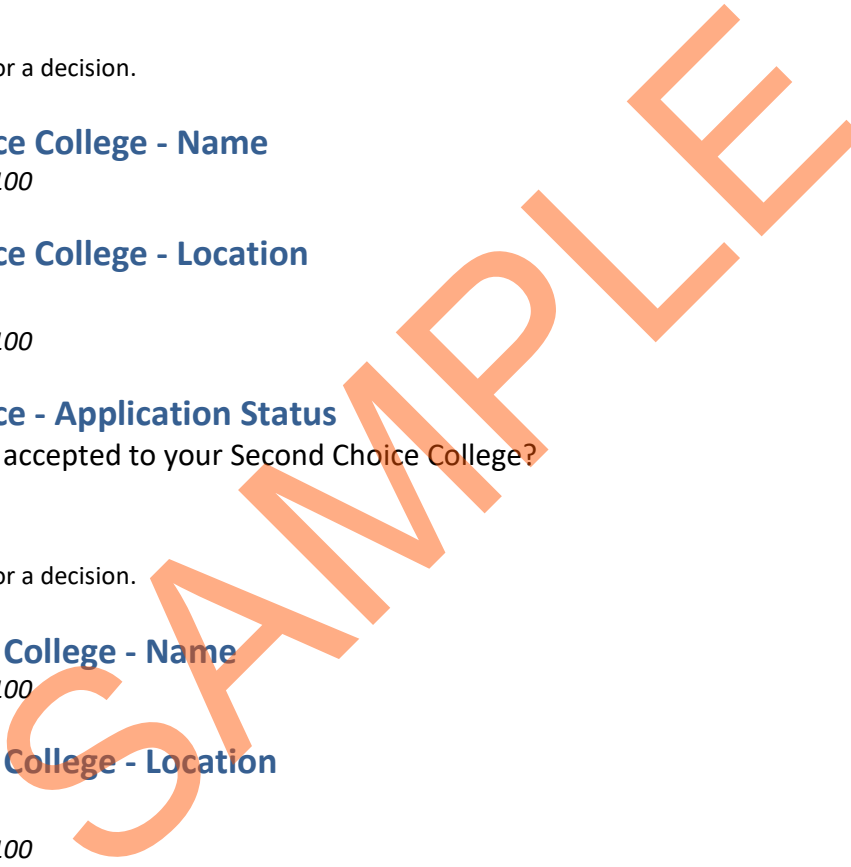
Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

Fourth Choice College - Name

Character Limit: 100



Fourth Choice College - Location

City, State

Character Limit: 100

Fourth Choice College - Application Status

Have you been accepted to your Fourth Choice College?

Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

Additional college choices

Please list school name, city, state and application status. **(Example: Boston University, Boston, MA, I am still waiting for a decision).**

Character Limit: 250

Major/Field of Study*

What is your anticipated course of study in college? E.g. computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems

Character Limit: 50

College: Living Situation*

Choices

Live on campus

Live off campus

Living at home with family

Essay

One essay is required. **This essay should reflect your personal experience and viewpoints.**

Essay prompt (500-1000 words)

We seek to award this scholarship to an individual that exemplifies the qualities of Mary Székely: a dedicated trailblazer and empathetic leader with a passion for math and science. Please share your passion for STEM, where it started, and what you hope to achieve. Additionally, please dedicate some of your essay to how you have had a positive impact on others through any volunteering, mentorship, and community engagement. Any initiatives related to STEM are a plus!

Character Limit: 6000

Required Attachments

Please attach the following **required attachments**.

Transcript: Transcripts must be received by the application deadline. Grade reports are not acceptable. 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 progress@tpi.org. Transcripts can also be mailed to

*Progress Software- Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM
c/o The Philanthropic Initiative
75 Arlington Street, Suite 710
Boston, MA 02116*

Transcript: Unofficial or Official?*

Which type of transcript are you attaching?

Choices

Official
Unofficial

Transcript*

Please attach a copy of your transcript.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Resume*

Please attach your resume.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

FAFSA Submission Summary*

Please attach a copy of your **FAFSA Submission Summary** in .pdf format. We cannot accept web pages, html, or jpeg documents.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Financial aid award letter

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Financial Aid Award Letter: Please attach a copy of your financial aid award letter from your top choice college or post-secondary program. If it is not available yet, you can upload your financial aid letter from your second-choice college/school.

Your financial aid award letter should include the grants, scholarships, work study, and loans being offered to you at the school you plan to attend. The letter also typically includes information about the cost of attendance at the college. Your financial aid award letter is NOT your acceptance letter. If you are still waiting for this information, you can email it to progress@tpi.org once your letter becomes available.

Certification

All of the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also attest that I am not a Progress employee, board member or a family member of a Progress employee or board member.

Electronic Signature of Applicant*

Please type 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 send the recommendation letter to progress@tpi.org.

Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for me for the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM. 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 April 11, 2025.

Character Limit: 254

Please submit a recommendation from a professor, teacher, who can attest to your passion and commitment to achieving your goals in STEM.

Attach Recommendation Letter here*

Thank you for serving as a reference for an applicant to the Progress Software Mary Székely Scholarship for Women in STEM. Scholarship recipients will be chosen on the basis of academic achievement; financial need; interest and experience in computer science, software engineering, IT and/or computer information systems; and personal attributes that exemplify Mary Székely's qualities, including a strong work ethic, high personal integrity and a passion for learning. Each recipient must have the desire to become what Mary Székely was: a leader, mentor and innovator.

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 comment on the student's:

- Ability and motivation to succeed in college.
- Passion and commitment to achieving their goals in STEM.
- Personal attributes and qualities.

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

Deadline to upload your letter is 5PM on 04/11/2025

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Recommender's Full Name*

Character Limit: 250

Recommender's position/title and affiliation*

Character Limit: 250

How long have you known the applicant?*

Character Limit: 250

In what capacity do you know the applicant?*

Character Limit: 250