

Barowsky Scholars

For a Better Tomorrow

2026 - 2026 Scholarship Guidelines

ABOUT

The Barowsky Scholars is a scholarship that seeks to support students who are interested in honing their careful listening, civic discourse, facilitation, and negotiation skills to become leaders that build trust and find common ground across people and groups with differing views and experiences. Students residing in the state of Maine, who are planning to attend a four-year college to obtain their bachelor's degree are eligible to apply.

The program is funded by Andrew P. Barowsky Foundation and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI).

THE AWARD

- Four-year, renewable scholarship to cover tuition, fees, and educational expenses at a four-year college/university in the U.S.
- Merit-based scholarship for students who are motivated to excel in college, able to be open-minded, committed to bridging divides, and working toward building a better society.
- Scholarship amounts will be determined in-part based on the financial aid award package the student receives from the college they choose to attend. Scholarship amounts will range from \$3,000 to \$25,000 per year.

ELIGIBILITY

Residency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. citizen and current resident of Maine.
Personal Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High school senior or recent high school graduate.• Enrolling as a first-year student in a four-year degree program, at an accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university in the U.S. full-time in 2026-2027.
Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong academic record in high school.• Motivated to excel in college and make a difference in their community, and in society overall.• Must complete one Economics course and two of the following courses prior to completing college: Accounting, Finance, History, or Psychology.
Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student demonstrates a commitment to reasoned, rational thinking, an ability to collaborate and work across difference, and a desire to deploy those skills in furtherance of civic engagement.• Involved in a balance of community, school, and work activities.• Students must live on campus in housing paid directly to the university (e.g. in university sponsored housing or student-group organized housing) and attend classes in-person to receive and renew the scholarship.

Complete applications are **due Friday, March 13, 2026 by 5:00 pm**. Only complete applications submitted online will be reviewed. Please follow instructions carefully.

You can access the application here: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=barowsky>

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HOW TO APPLY

1. **Review Eligibility:** Review these guidelines for eligibility requirements.
2. **Review Application:** A PDF of the application is available for download at: <https://tpi.org/barowsky-scholars-2/>
3. **Required Documents:** Instructions on how to submit required attachments are included in the online application (options include uploading electronic files, scanning and uploading, or using a fax-to-file feature).
4. **Recommendation:** Recommender must upload a letter of recommendation to the student's online application. Instructions are included in the application.
5. Please contact us at barowskyscholars@tpi.org with any questions.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

1. **Application Submitted Online**
2. **Extracurricular Information or Resume**
3. **Letter of Recommendation** (from a teacher, guidance counselor, work supervisor, community leader, coach, or any other non-family member who knows the student well)
4. **Personal Essay**
 - A personal essay responding to the following prompt. This scholarship seeks to support students who want to meet in the middle in order to make progress for the common good. It seeks to support bridgebuilders. Bridgebuilding can be defined as people of diverse identities, ideologies, and lived experiences coming together to take shared action for the common good. ***This essay should reflect your personal experiences and viewpoints. Please write a four-part essay that responds to all questions in each section below. Your full response should be within the 500-word limit.***
 - A. Think about the issues people in your family, school, town, country or world are divided over and select one to write about. Please reflect on your experience talking and/or collaborating with someone who has a different perspective than you on the issue. How did you manage the different perspectives? What strategies did you use to ensure the conversation remained civil? What steps did you take to move forward, work together, and make progress in solving the problem.
 - B. Based on your own experience, what makes people unable, unwilling, or too scared to share their opinions and ideas about the world we live in? What has your own experience been discussing or choosing not to discuss divisive issues? What issues have you discussed, in what setting, and how did it go? What would you do differently next time? If you have shied away from these discussions, what would help you to be able to discuss important topics?
 - C. Why is it important to actively seek out and listen to viewpoints different than your own? What issues or problems can be improved by working together with people who have had different life experiences and who hold a variety of beliefs, perspectives, opinions, viewpoints, and identities?
 - D. While in college, what skills will you look to develop to be more effective in bridging divides? What courses or extra curriculars do you plan to seek out in college to gain knowledge, engage in thoughtful discussions about issues that divide our communities, cities, states, or country? How will you attempt to bridge divides to solve problems and reach shared goals?

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5. **High School Transcript**
6. **Financial Aid Award letter from the college/university the student plans to attend**
7. **FAFSA Submission Summary.** The ENTIRE document must be submitted. If the student has not applied for federal financial aid, please indicate in the application.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

Renewal of the scholarship is contingent upon the following:

- Students maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent).
- Students must take **one** Economics course and **two** of the following: Accounting, Finance, History, or Psychology before completion of their final year in college.
- Students must live on campus, in housing paid directly to the university (e.g. in university organized housing or student-group organized housing) and to attend classes in-person to receive and to renew the scholarship.
- Barowsky scholars are expected to make every effort to attend scholarship sponsored events aimed at building community and developing skills.

Recipients of the scholarship will be required to complete a short renewal application annually to receive the scholarship for the following academic year.

TIMELINE

- Application deadline is Friday, March 13, 2026 by 5pm.
- Scholarship recipients and amounts will be announced in June 2026.
- Scholarships will be processed in July 2026.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Please contact us at barowskyscholars@tpi.org