

# Barowsky Scholars 2026-27

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## *Barowsky Scholars*

### *Scholarship Description*

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#### **ABOUT**

Barowsky Scholars is a scholarship that aims to support Maine residents, who are graduating from high school and planning to attend a four-year college to obtain their bachelor's degree. This scholarship 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.

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

#### **THE AWARD**

- Four-year, renewable scholarship to cover tuition, fees and educational expenses at a competitive four-year college/university in the US.
- Merit-based scholarship for open-minded students who are motivated to excel in college, and 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.

### *Requirements*

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#### **ELIGIBILITY**

- U.S. citizen and current resident of Maine.
- 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.
- 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 any of the following courses prior to completing college: accounting, finance, history or psychology.
- 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.
- Student must live on campus in housing paid directly to the university (e.g. in university sponsored housing or student-group organized housing) and to attend classes in-person to receive and to renew the scholarship.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

- Application Submitted Online
- Extracurricular Information or Resume
- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, guidance counselor, work supervisor, community leader, coach, or any other non-family member who knows the student well)
- An essay that reflects the student's personal experiences and approach to finding common ground by responding to a specific prompt.
- High School Transcript
- Financial Aid Award letter from the college/university the student plans to attend
- FAFSA Submission Summary. The ENTIRE document must be submitted. If the student has not applied for federal financial aid, please indicate this in the application.

## Instructions

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Thank you for your interest in the Barowsky Scholars program. Please read the following instructions **carefully** before filling out your application. An applicant's ability to follow instruction will weigh into award decisions.

**Applications are due by Friday, March 13, 2026 at 5pm.**

### **General Instructions**

### Completing your application:

- All application materials can be found on TPI's website here: <https://tpi.org/barowsky-scholars-2/>
- 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.
- You can save your application and return to it later by clicking "save" and logging out. Your application will be marked Draft and you can return to it at any time by logging back into your account.
- 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 your application, please click the **Save as Draft** button at the bottom of the page. If you would like to return to your application on a later date, you may do so by logging in and clicking on your application under your contact information. It will be marked *Draft* until you submit it.

### 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 a confirmation email, then you have not properly submitted your application, and it will not be reviewed. If you do not receive this email, log back into your account to submit your application, or email **barowskyscholars@tpi.org** for assistance.
- 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 this system which will include a link for them to click on and answer questions. Your recommender will be able to upload their materials to your application even after you submit your application. You do not need to wait for your recommendation to be complete in order to submit your application.

**Important:** be sure to review your application before clicking "submit" to make sure that all attachments have been uploaded correctly and your answers are clear. To do this, click on the "Application Packet" button in the top right-hand corner of the page. This will allow you to view your application in the form the reviewers will see it. ***Applications that have unreadable attachments or don't load correctly will not be considered. It is very important that you look over your application to make sure that everything will be properly submitted.***

If you have any questions or need help uploading forms to your application, please contact [barowskyscholars@tpi.org](mailto:barowskyscholars@tpi.org).

## Personal Information

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### 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

- She/Her
- He/Him
- They/Them

### Date of Birth\*

Example: xx/xx/xxxx

Character Limit: 10

### Race & Ethnicity\*

Your response to the question below is voluntary. We are collecting this information to help ensure that we are reaching a diverse applicant pool. This information will not be used in our scholarship decision-making process.

#### Choices

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Multi-racial
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other
- White
- Prefer not to Answer

**Is English your first language?\*****Choices**

- Yes
- No

**If not, what is your first language?**

*Character Limit: 100*

**Are you among the first generation in your immediate family to attend college?\***

*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

**Are you a US Citizen?\*****Choices**

- Yes
- No

## Family/Household Information

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**Who do you live with?\***

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). **For example: Jane Smith, mother, 52, Personal Care Assistant.**

*Character Limit: 1000*

**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: 1000*

**Siblings Currently in College?\***

Do you have any siblings currently in college?

**Choices**

- Yes
- No
- N/A (no siblings)

**Colleges Currently Attended by your Sibling(s)**

If yes to previous question, please list the college(s) that your sibling(s) currently attend.

*Character Limit: 250*

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

**Choices**

- Middle School
- High School
- Some college
- College (two-year)
- College (four-year)
- Graduate School
- Do not know

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

**Choices**

- Middle School
- High School
- Some college
- College (two-year)
- College (four-year)
- Graduate School
- Do not know

**Unusual Circumstances**

If there are any unusual family or financial circumstances you feel should be considered, please describe them.

*Character Limit: 3000*

**Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)\***

Please enter a number here. If the number is not available in your FAFSA Submission Summary, please reference your parents' 1040.

*Character Limit: 25*

**Student Aid Index (SAI)\***

Can be found on your FAFSA Submission Summary

Character Limit: 25

## High School Information

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### High School- Name\*

Character Limit: 100

### High School - Location\*

City, State

Character Limit: 50

### High School - Graduation Date\*

Month/Year (Example: xx/xxxx)

Character Limit: 7

### High School GPA Weighted\*

Please provide your weighted GPA. If your school does not weight your GPA, please write Not Applicable.

Character Limit: 20

### High School GPA Unweighted\*

Please provide your unweighted GPA. If your school does not provide an unweighted GPA, please write Not Applicable.

Character Limit: 5

### High School Class Rank\*

Please report your class rank out of your total graduating class (e.g.: 5/120). If your school does not rank students, please write Not Applicable.

Character Limit: 15

### Advanced Placement Courses

Please list the names of any Advanced Placement (AP) courses you have completed or in which you are currently enrolled. If your school does not offer AP courses, please indicate that here. Character Limit: 500

## College Choice(s)

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Please list, in order of preference, the colleges or schools you hope to attend in the fall of 2026. **You must provide information for at least one college or university.**

### First Choice College or School - Name\*

Character Limit: 100

### First Choice College or School - Location\*

City, State

Character Limit: 100

### First Choice College or School - Application Status\*

Have you been accepted to your first choice college?

#### Choices

Yes

I am still waiting for a decision.

### Second Choice College or School - Name

Character Limit: 100

### Second Choice College or School - Location

City, State

Character Limit: 100

### Second Choice College or School - Application Status

Have you been accepted to your Second Choice College?

#### Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

### Third Choice College or School – Name

Character Limit: 250

### Third Choice College or School – Location

City, State

Character Limit: 100

### Third Choice College or School - Application Status

Have you been accepted to your Third Choice College?

#### Choices

Yes.

I am still waiting for a decision.

### Anticipated Major/ Field of Study\*

What is your anticipated course of study in college? *e.g. Biology, Finance, Communications, etc.*

*Character Limit: 50*

### What career path are you interested in post college?\*

If not sure, please list multiple possible career paths.

*Character Limit: 250*

### Living Situation\*

In order to be eligible to receive this scholarship, you must live on campus in housing paid directly to the university.

#### Choices

Live on campus

## Other Scholarships

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Please note that we value students who are proactive in seeking additional scholarship resources, so we encourage you to list all scholarships for which you plan to apply.

### Other Scholarships Applied to for the 2026-27 school year:\*

Please list all scholarships for which you have submitted an application and the scholarship amount per year.

*Character Limit: 600*

### Other Scholarships Received for the 2026-27 school year and annual scholarship amount:\*

Please list the scholarships you have been awarded, as well as the scholarship amount per year.

*Character Limit: 600*

## Other Scholarships you plan to apply for the 2026-27 school year and annual scholarship amount\*

Please list the scholarships you are planning to apply for, as well as the scholarship amount per year.

*Character Limit: 600*

## Extracurricular, Work, and Community Experience

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Please fill out the following information about your extracurricular, community/volunteer, home responsibilities, and work experiences in high school.

**Sample entry could look like this:**

### **Work**

*Location/Organization: Sunshine Camp*

*Position/ Role: Summer Camp Counselor*

*Employment Period: June 25, 2023 - August 31, 2023*

*Time Commitment: 30 hours per week for 8 weeks*

### **Activities, Awards & Honors**

*Co-curricular Club/ Activity Name: Memorial High School Marching Band*

*Position/ Role: Trumpet Player*

*Period of Involvement: Grades 10, 11, 12*

*Weekly Time Commitment: 4 hours per week for 3 months*

### **Community/Volunteer**

*Activity Name: Brookside Elementary School*

*Position/ Role: First grade reading tutor*

*Period of Involvement: Grades 11 & 12*

*Weekly Time Commitment: 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".*

## Resume

If you would prefer, you may upload a copy of your resume instead of filling out the individual fields below if you feel it provides a better representation of your experiences. Please upload the completed form in . pdf, .doc, or .docx formats, only. *File Size Limit: 2 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.

*Character Limit: 3000*

## Leadership/Civic Activities, Awards & Honors

List all activities in which you have participated during high school related to civics, government, leadership, etc. (e.g., Model UN, Debate Team, Mock Trial). Please list the most recent first. Note all special awards, honors and offices/ positions held.

*Character Limit: 3000*

## Activities, Awards & Honors

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

*Character Limit: 3000*

## Community Service/ Volunteer Activities

List all community activities in which you have participated in the past four years including name of organization, dates of participation and specific activities.

*Character Limit: 3000*

## Essay

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All essays and short answer questions should reflect **your personal experiences and viewpoints, written in your own words**. You will be asked to certify this through your electronic signature.

## Personal Essay\*

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 these issues and your experience talking and/or collaborating with someone who has a different perspective on the issue than you. 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? *File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### Other - Part I\*

Have you ever been placed on non-academic probation or been suspended from secondary school or convicted of a felony?

#### Choices

Yes

No

### Other - Part II

If you answered **Yes** to the previous question, please explain here. (500 words or less)

*Character Limit: 3000*

## Required Attachments

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### Transcript\*

Please upload your most recent high school transcript, and include your high schools grading scale.

*If your school does not provide transcripts to students, please upload a word document explaining that, and have your school email your transcript to [barowskyscholars@tpi.org](mailto:barowskyscholars@tpi.org).*

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

### **Financial Documents**

Please note the following:

- All financial information will be treated confidentially.
- This information will be used to help understand the student's potential financial need.
- Actual scholarship award amounts will be determined upon review of the financial aid award letter received from the college/university the student plans to attend.

### **Financial Aid Award Letter**

Please upload your financial aid award letter from the college you are planning to attending this fall. If your financial aid letter is not available now, we ask that you email it once you receive it.

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

### **FAFSA Submission Summary\***

Please attach a copy of your **FAFSA Submission Summary**.

*You can obtain a copy by going to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> and printing/saving your entire Submission Summary.*

**Please note: documents must be uploaded as .doc, .docx, or .pdf files. We cannot accept web pages, html, or jpeg documents.**

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*

### **Certification**

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*By my signature, I certify that the information provided is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also certify that the views and experiences expressed in this application are my own. I give my consent for representatives from TPI to discuss my eligibility and need for scholarship assistance with financial aid counselors at my college(s) of choice.*

### **Applicant's Electronic Signature\***

*Please type your full name.*

*Character Limit: 50*

### **Today's Date\***

*Character Limit: 10*

## Parent's or Guardian's Electronic Signature

*If the applicant is under age 18, 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.**

**Important:** be sure to review your application before clicking "submit" to make sure all attachments have been uploaded correctly and your answers are clear. To do this, click on the "Application Packet" button in the top right-hand corner of the page. This will allow you to view your application in the form the reviewers will see it. ***Applications that have unreadable attachments or don't load correctly will not be considered. It is very important that you look over your application to make sure everything will be properly submitted.***

## Recommendation

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### Recommendation Request- Email\*

Please enter the email address of your general reference below, then click "Compose Email" to send them a personal email asking them to be a reference. They will receive a second email from this system which will include a link for them to click on and answer questions. Please inform your reference to check their spam folder. If your recommender is still unable to view the upload link please have them email the recommendation letter to [barowskyscholars@tpi.org](mailto:barowskyscholars@tpi.org). Below are generic instructions for you to copy and paste into your email if you would like to use them.

*Thank you for taking the time to serve as a reference for me for the Barowsky Scholars scholarship. The Barowsky Scholars Program 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. You'll be receiving 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 due date is **March 13, 2026.***

*Thanks!*

*Character Limit: 254*

**👤 Name of person completing this recommendation\***

*Character Limit: 50*

**👤 Email\***

*Character Limit: 254*

**👤 Position/Job Title\***

*Character Limit: 250*

**👤 How long have you known the applicant?\***

*Character Limit: 500*

**👤 In what capacity do you know the applicant?\***

*Character Limit: 500*

**Recommender Check List**

Please complete the questionnaire below.

**👤 The applicant's choice of postsecondary educational program is:\***

**Choices**

- Extremely Appropriate
- Very Appropriate
- Moderately Appropriate
- Inappropriate

**👤 The applicant demonstrates an ability to work well with others and find common ground is:\***

**Choices**

- Extremely Well
- Very Well
- Moderately Well
- Not Well

**👤 The applicant's leadership qualities are:\***

**Choices**

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

**👤 Letter of Recommendation\***

Please upload your letter of recommendation answering the following questions for the applicant here.

1. Please describe the student's ability and motivation to succeed in college.
2. Please recount a time when the student put their efforts toward finding common ground or bridging divides, or their interest in developing skills to work with other toward the common good.
3. In what ways do you believe the student will benefit from their involvement with the Barowsky Scholars scholarship?

**Please note: documents must be uploaded as .doc, .docx, or .pdf files.**

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

SAMPLE