



Frequently Asked Questions

I am still in school and do not have professional references:

Question: I am currently in the senior year of my undergraduate degree. I am applying for the FWA Scholarship for my graduate degree that I will start this coming Fall. The FWASF scholarship application requires two recommendations, one from a professor or advisor and one from a client or employer. However, as a full-time undergraduate student, I do not have clients or an employer. Can I submit two letters of recommendation from two different professors instead?

Answer: For the letter of recommendation from a current or former employer, you can get a letter from your supervisor during part-time summer employment or an internship. If you have not had any position of that nature, a letter from a second professor is acceptable.

I have not been accepted for a graduate program yet:

Question: According to the FWASF Scholarship eligibility requirements, I must be accepted to a graduate business program for the Fall Semester in order to apply. I have applied to MBA programs, but will not know whether or not I have been admitted until after the March 17th FWASF application deadline. Can I still apply for the Scholarship?

Answer: Please proceed with your FWASF scholarship application; you should hear from the schools shortly after the March 17th deadline -- please let us know as soon as you hear. If necessary, you can withdraw your application.

FAFSA Form for Foreign Students:

Question: I notice that the FWASF scholarship requires submission of the FAFSA form. As I am an international student, I am not eligible for FAFSA. Can I still apply for the scholarship?

Answer: As an international student, you can apply for the FWASF scholarship. We request the FAFSA form as a standard way to provide information on your financial resources.

I don't have a Social Security Number:

Question: The FAFSA form requests my Social Security Number; I am not a U.S. citizen and do not have a Social Security Number. What should I do?

Answer: You may omit the Social Security Number if you do not have one as an international applicant.

I am no longer in school and do not have recent or relevant academic references:

Question: I have a question about the requirement for a letter of recommendation from "a professor or advisor". I have been working in finance for nearly six years, and, while I had a rigorous academic training, this "training" was in the humanities. I can certainly provide a letter from one of my professors; however, I suspect that a letter from someone with whom I have worked more recently might provide you more insight on my qualifications and potential in finance than would remarks made by such a professor.

Answer: We could accept two from professional references considering your academic work was a number of years ago.

Official transcripts vs. scanned copies:

Question: I am currently working on my application for the FWASF scholarship and was wondering if an unofficial transcript is acceptable or if an official transcript is required. If an official copy is required, is a scanned copy preferred or should I have a sealed copy mailed?

Answer: We do require an official transcript. We prefer that you scan the official copy and submit it to us electronically. You can submit a scanned copy through our online web site application at [www.http://www.fwasfscholarshipfund.org/scholar_application.asp](http://www.fwasfscholarshipfund.org/scholar_application.asp).

What does "Current Academic Status" mean? What do I list for GPA if I am not currently in school?

Question: In the Application form section "Current Academic Status" - should I fill in the school I will be attending in the Fall semester? There is also a field for GPA, what does it mean?

Answer: If you are currently working and not in school, indicate your undergraduate school and the year you graduated. Additionally, indicate where you are working if that applies. GPA stands for Grade Point Average, which would be for your undergraduate school or earlier post-graduate studies, if applicable.

What if I cannot attend the interviews in person?

Question: I will be out of the country for the current semester, returning to the U.S. in June. Can I still apply for a scholarship if I can't participate in in-person interviews?

Answer: In-person interviews are an important part of our selection process. Those interviews take place in April and May of this year. Unfortunately, it does not sound like you will be in California at that time so you will not be in a position to apply for the current year. We welcome your application for the following year when you will be able to do the in-person interviews.

Current earnings vs. what I will be earning while I am in school

Question: The "Financial Resources" section of the FAFSA form includes a space for "Current Earnings/Income." Should I list my current annual salary in that box, even though I won't be employed next year when I'm a full time student?

Answer: Do list your current earnings. You should note that as a student your income will be much less or none at all so our reviewers understand that point.

Suggested topics for reference letters

Question: Could you please provide some guidance or criteria to assist those that are preparing references for my scholarship application?

Answer: The reference letters typically address the following topics as relevant to your application:

- Your involvement in finance -- academic work, professional experience, volunteer activities
 - Your leadership contributions in an academic, community or professional setting
 - Anything special or unique that you would like us to know about you.
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If you have additional questions please call us at (415) 586-8599
or email at: info@fwaf.org