

2025

**Northern Hills Federal Credit Union
Non-Traditional Student Scholarship**



Deadline March 31, 2025

2025 Scholarships



Judging Criteria:

The judging committee, consisting of credit union professionals will score each applicant on the following criteria:

1. Verification of Attendance
2. Letters of Recommendation
3. Career goals
4. Professional presentation

Application Deadline:

Applications must be postmarked by Monday, March 31, 2025. Applications should be sent to the following address:

Attn: Scholarship Committee
PO Box 759
Sturgis SD 57785

The scholarship winners will be announced in May 2025 and will be asked to submit a photo for public release. If you have any questions, please call Rhonda Cutts of Northern Hills Federal Credit Union at 605-347-4527 in Sturgis or by email: rcutts@northernhillscu.org.

Applicants will not be discriminated against based on gender, race, religion, or national origin.

Scholarships:

Northern Hills Federal Credit Union will award a \$1000 scholarship to a non-traditional, post-secondary student that exemplifies the credit union philosophy of “people helping people” through volunteering, community service, and leadership. The scholarships will be awarded for the 2025-2026 school year. The proceeds will be mailed directly to the financial aid office at the school shown on the application upon receiving verification of enrollment from the scholarship recipient.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ❑ **The applicant must be a member in good standing of Northern Hills Federal Credit Union.**
- ❑ At least three years have passed from the applicant’s graduation date from high school or a qualifying GED program.
- ❑ The applicant must not already hold a bachelor’s degree.
- ❑ The applicant must be attending or plan to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school within the next calendar year.

Application Requirements:

- ❑ A completed copy of the application form.
- ❑ An official copy of cumulative college transcripts or a letter of acceptance from the University that the applicant plans to attend.
- ❑ One personal and one professional written letter of recommendation.
- ❑ A two-part essay describing
 - Your career goals
 - How your community/work experiences **have exemplified the credit union philosophy of “people helping people.”**
 - Steps you will take to ensure your success

Essay should be, typed, double-spaced on plain white paper.

Be sure to make a copy of the complete package for your records.

Northern Hills Federal Credit Union Scholarship Application Form

Background Information:

Account #: _____

Name: _____
Last First MI

Address: _____
Street Address City State ZIP

Email Address: _____ Best Contact Method: _____

Phone Number: _____

High School or GED Program: _____
Name of School Graduation Date

School Planning to Attend: _____
Name of School Mailing Address

City State ZIP Phone Number

Expected Field of Study/Major: _____

Section I: Verification of Attendance

1. Attach an official copy of cumulative college transcripts OR a letter of acceptance from the University you plan to attend.

Section II: Letters of Recommendation (10 points)

1. Attach one personal written letter of recommendation. This could be from a friend, family member, co-worker or community person.
2. Attach one professional written letter of recommendation. This could be from an employer, former teacher, co-worker, or supervisor.

Section III: Career Goals (80 points)

1. Essay should be typed, doubled-spaced on a separate sheet of plain white paper and attached to the application.
2. Essay should respond to the following:
 - a. Describe your career goals and discuss your decision to take this step at this time. Name the institution you plan to attend and on what you based this decision – 200 to 300 words (30 points)
 - b. Describe how your community/work experiences **have exemplified the credit union philosophy of “people helping people”** – 120 to 150 words (20 points)
 - c. Describe what steps you will take to ensure your success – 120 to 150 words (30 points)

Section IV: Professional Presentation (clarity, completeness, writing) (10 points)