

2026

Northern Hills Federal Credit Union Graduating Senior Scholarship



Deadline March 31, 2026

2026 Scholarships



Judging Criteria:

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

1. High school performance
2. Outside of classroom activities
3. Letters of Recommendation
4. Career goals
5. Professional presentation

Application Deadline:

Applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 31, 2026. 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 2026 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@northernhillsfcu.org.

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

Scholarships:

Northern Hills Federal Credit Union will award three scholarships in the amounts of \$1000, \$750, and \$500 for applicants that exemplify the credit union philosophy of “people helping people” through volunteering, community service, and leadership. The scholarships will be awarded for the 2026-2027 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
- ❑ The applicant must be a graduating high school senior.
- ❑ The applicant must be attending an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school.

Application Requirements:

- ❑ A completed copy of the application form.
- ❑ A copy of your cumulative grade transcripts.
- ❑ A list of outside of classroom activities and years of participation.
- ❑ Two written letters of recommendation from your teacher, guidance counselor, supervisor, or community leader.
- ❑ A three-part essay describing
 - How your high school classes have helped you prepare for postsecondary education.
 - How your out of classroom experiences exemplify the credit union philosophy of “people helping people.”
 - Your career goals.

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: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

High School: _____
Name of School Phone Number Graduation Date

Name of Guidance Counselor: _____ Overall GPA: _____

School Planning to Attend: _____
Name of School Mailing Address

City State ZIP Phone Number

Expected Field of Study/Major: _____

Section I: High School Classroom Performance (20 points)

1. Attach a copy of your cumulative grade transcripts.
2. **Part 1 of the essay:** Respond to the following in 120 to 150 words: Describe how your high school courses have helped you prepare for your continued education.
 - a. Essay should be typed, double-spaced on a separate sheet of plain white paper and attached to the application.

Section II: Outside of Classroom Activities (employment, community service, sports, other school activities, etc.) (30 points)

1. List activities and years of participation:
 - a. List outside of classroom activities.
 - b. This could include employment, community service, sports, or other school activities, etc.
 - c. Include dates of participation/employment as well as any honors or accomplishments earned as a result of your participation/employment. (If more room is needed, please attach an extra sheet.)

Employer/Organization/Activity	Title/Duties/Honors/Awards	Dates
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____

Section II: Outside of Classroom Activities (cont.)

Part 2 of the essay: Respond to the following in 200 to 300 words: Describe your contributions to the organizations/groups listed above. What did you learn from these experiences? How did your out of classroom experiences exemplify the credit union philosophy of “people helping people”?

Section III: Letters of Recommendation (10 points)

Attach two written letters of recommendation from your teachers, guidance counselors, supervisors and/or community leaders.

Section IV. Career Goals (30 points)

Part 3 of the essay: Respond to the following in 250 to 300 words: Describe your professional aspirations and why you chose this profession. Name the school you plan to attend and why you chose it. Describe what you will do to be successful.

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

Section VI: Optional Bonus (5 points)

Attach verification of enrollment in/completion of dual credit courses at a university or technical institute to this application.