

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@northernhillscu.org](mailto: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 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.