

A photograph of a large, multi-story brick building, likely a school, with a prominent entrance featuring a portico supported by columns. The building has many windows with white frames. In the foreground, there are green trees and a flagpole with a flag. The sky is clear and blue.

South High School Alumni Association 2026 Scholarship Guidelines

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Five Questions and Answers That Can Help You Get an SHSAA 2026 Scholarship!

1. Who Is SHSAA?

The South High School Alumni Association (SHSAA) is a service organization committed to scholarship, citizenship, and maintaining the tradition of excellence and service exemplified by graduates of Columbus South High School. We have nearly 500 members representing literally thousands of people who have graduated from South High School stretching back to the 1940s and as recent as 2014. Although many of us are old enough to be your parents, or in some cases your grandparents, we share a common experience with you. **We are proud to be Bulldogs!** And we want you to succeed in life.

2. What Do We Have in Common With South High Seniors in 2026?

We walked the same halls. We studied in the same classrooms. We sang in the choir. We were band members. We performed on the stage. We were athletes, scholars, cheerleaders, and unique individuals whose personalities were in their very early stages of development. We learned foreign languages. We tried to fit in with the groups we admired. We developed friendships that have lasted a lifetime. And we took the first steps toward adulthood at South High School the same way you are today. We share a common experience of having benefited from South High School as we grew up. We are proud to wear the blue and gray of South High School and feel a special responsibility to help our fellow Bulldogs prepare for the future.

3. What Types of Scholarships Are Available?

SHSAA's scholarships fall into two categories. The first category is called **Bulldog Support**. These scholarships each range from \$500 to \$3,000 a year. The awards are directed to students attending universities, community colleges, or certified trade schools. Key award considerations include academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, and well-defined plans for the future. These scholarships help offset higher education expenses.

The second category is called the **William R. Davy Academic Excellence Award**. This annual \$5,000 scholarship award was provided in memory of Bill Davy, SHS class of 1966. Contact the **Know I Can** advisor at South to see if you qualify to apply for this scholarship.

4. How Do I Apply for an SHSAA Scholarship?

There is a four-step application process. You must complete each step and submit your information online to SHSAA by May 1, 2026. This document explains each step. Please follow the guidelines as they are described below. You must submit your materials according to these guidelines for us to evaluate your application.

5. What Are the Four Steps in the Application Process?

1. Complete the Eligibility Checklist.
2. Complete and Submit the Online Application Form.
3. Write a Compelling Essay.
4. Submit All Application Information no later than May 1, 2026.

Step 1 Complete the following *eligibility checklist*. To be eligible for a scholarship, you must be able to answer YES to either question 1, 2, or 3 and YES to question 4.

| | ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST | YES | NO |
|------|---|------------|-----------|
| 1 | I am a student in the current graduating class of Columbus South High School | | |
| 2 | I am a family member of an active SHSAA member and a senior graduating this year. | | |
| 3 | I am currently enrolled in an accredited college, university, or trade school and am a graduate of Columbus South High School or a family member of an active SHSAA member. | | |
| 4 | I have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 as a current high school senior or a 2.5 for the most recent two semesters. | | |
| NOTE | Past recipients can apply for additional support if their answer to item 4 is YES. | | |

Step 2 – Complete and Submit the online application form.

Step 3 - Write an essay using the guidelines listed below. It should be a minimum of 750 words and a maximum of 1,500 words. Upon completion of your essay, submit it on the online application form that you filled out in Step 2.

| | Topic | Description | Point Value |
|---|----------------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Define Success | What does success mean to you? How do you define it? How do you know when you achieve it? Describe how you feel going to college is going to get you closer to realizing this success. | 25 |
| 2 | Education Goals | Describe the goals that you have set for yourself regarding your education. How will these education goals get you closer to the success you have defined for yourself? | 20 |
| 3 | Skills Inventory | Describe specific skills that you have developed and that you depend on to achieve priorities in your life. How do you use these skills on a daily basis? Be specific. For example, are you a problem solver? Are you a good communicator? Do you have talents that set you apart from the crowd? | 20 |
| 4 | Personal Strengths | Describe personal strengths that you feel enable you to be successful. Include emotional, intellectual, creative, leadership, and character strengths. How do these strengths influence others? | 25 |
| 5 | Notable Achievements | Describe specific things that you have accomplished during your high school years for which you are particularly proud. Include leadership positions held, volunteer experiences, academic achievements, athletic achievements, and any other unique accomplishments. | 10 |

PLEASE USE THIS TEMPLATE AS A GUIDE TO ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE INCLUDED ALL OF THE CRITICAL INFORMATION

SHSAA Scholarship Application Essay Template

This is a suggested template for writing your scholarship essay.

INTRODUCTION

Begin by introducing yourself. I am _____. I am a senior at _____ High School. My email address is: _____. My mailing address is: _____. You can contact me by phone at _____. You can also text me at this phone number. Include the name of the college to which you have been accepted. What do you plan to study?

DEFINING SUCCESS

- *What does success mean to you?*
- *How do you define success*
- *How do you know when you achieve success?*
- *How do you believe going to college will get you closer realizing success?*

EDUCATION GOALS

- *Describe the goals you have set for yourself regarding your education.*
- *How will these goals get you closer to the success you have defined for yourself?*

SKILLS INVENTORY

- *Describe specific skills you have that you depend on to achieve your priorities in life.*
- *How do you use these skills in your daily life?*
- *For example, are you a problem solver? Are you a good communicator? What talents do you have that set you apart from the crowd?*

PERSONAL STRENGTHS

- *What are your personal strengths that enable you to be successful?*
- *Include emotional, intellectual, creative, leadership, and character strengths.*
- *How do these strengths show in your relationships with others?*

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Describe specific things you have accomplished during high school year of which you are proud. Include unique accomplishments.*

Close with by stating your name and high school. You may attach additional documents to your online application such as reference letters, photos, or other pdf formatted files.

Step 4 - Submit the completed online application including your essay file no later than May 1, 2026.

We look forward to receiving your completed application. Please note that your online application can include REFERENCE LETTERS as pdf attachments. In addition, although not required, all applications are strengthened by reference letters from individuals who know you and can attest to your qualifications and potential.

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the application, please contact either:

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