

## A Dream Decided (ADD) Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

**1. Is there a paper application?**

No, the application is only available online. Please submit all supporting documentation with your online application—do **not** mail or email any required documents. Your application will not be considered complete without **all** required documents.

**2. Does my application need to be completed in English?**

The application and all supporting documents must be in English.

**3. What happens if my application is not complete?**

It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a complete application. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

**4. Can I submit my application after the deadline?**

Applications must be submitted by the deadline. You will be unable to submit an application once the deadline has passed and the application period closes.

**5. I am an undocumented or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) student; however, I was not born outside of the United States. Am I eligible for this scholarship?**

No. Applicants for the A Dream Decided Scholarship are required to be an undocumented or DACA student born outside of but currently living in the United States.

Undocumented applicants must submit a copy of a bill or other document from a third-party organization showing their current address in the United States. This can include correspondence from your university as long as it has your address.

**6. What qualifies as "status documentation"?**

DACA applicants must submit the DACA notice or letter received upon approval. Other official forms of proof may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Applicants must also submit a copy of a bill or other document from a third-party organization showing their current address in the United States. This can include correspondence from your university as long as it has your address.

**7. Will my information be shared with other organizations?**

No. Information collected in the application will not be shared with anyone outside of NBCC, Inc. and Affiliates without express written permission from the applicant.

**8. I already have an advanced degree. Can I apply for a scholarship for another degree at the same level, e.g., a second master's degree or a second doctoral degree?**

Applicants are ineligible if they have already earned any advanced degree at the same level in a behavioral health field. Applicants are eligible if their other advanced degree is NOT already in a behavioral health field.

**9. My reference is unable to provide their reference letter before the deadline. Will you accept their reference after the deadline?**

No, applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by the deadline.

**10. If I am missing a document for my application or one of my submitted documents is not correct, will I be able to submit the updated document?**

No, applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by the deadline. This means documents must be submitted correctly. Due to the number of applications, staff will **not** reach out to applicants to submit missing or corrected documents.

**11. If something in my application changes after I submit my application, what should I do?**

Please email us immediately at [foundation@nbcc.org](mailto:foundation@nbcc.org) if any aspect of your application changes.

**12. I receive funds from a work-study program through my university. Would this make me ineligible for the scholarship?**

No. Federally sponsored work-study programs do not adversely affect an applicant's eligibility for scholarship funds because the university is the actual employer. Only applicants who are employed by a federal agency or who receive other federal training grant funds are considered ineligible.

**13. I receive other forms of financial aid. Will receiving the scholarship affect my financial aid status?**

You must check with your other funding source to determine if receiving the scholarship would impact any other financial aid sources.

**14. In order for me to qualify for the award, what kind of academic accreditation does my university need?**

Applicants for all NBCC Foundation scholarships must be enrolled in a CACREP-accredited counseling program.

**15. How can I find out if my counseling program is CACREP accredited?**

You can identify CACREP-accredited programs at [cacrep.org/directory](http://cacrep.org/directory).

**16. My counseling program is in the process of attaining CACREP accreditation. Am I eligible for the scholarship?**

No. Applicants must be enrolled in a CACREP-accredited program at the time of application.

**17. Do I have to be enrolled full time in my academic program to be eligible?**

Yes. All applicants must be enrolled full time in their academic program. Programs are considered full time based on what the university or program considers full time.

**18. I am enrolled in a school counseling program. Am I eligible to apply for a scholarship?**

Yes, applicants may be enrolled in a school counseling program, as long as the program is CACREP accredited.

**19. Are students in other programs of study, such as social work, eligible for NBCC Foundation scholarships?**

No. NBCC Foundation scholarships are only awarded to counseling students.

**20. I was just accepted into my program, but I will not begin classes until spring 2024. Can I still apply for the scholarship?**

No, applicants must have taken courses during the fall 2023 semester. This means they may not have a pending or deferred status, or other future start date for their coursework.

**21. Can I submit a copy of my transcript as my current academic documentation?**

Yes, if the transcript shows your fall 2023 class schedule.

**22. Are funds given directly to scholarship recipients or to their institutions?**

Scholarship funds are given directly to recipients, who are responsible for any tax implications.

**23. What if I receive the scholarship and am unable to fulfill my commitments?**

Scholarships are awarded with the expectation that all commitments will be met. The NBCC Foundation will determine repayment requirements on a case-by-case basis.

**24. Where can I find the Letter of Good Standing?**

A link to the acceptable document is provided in the application. Please note that a letter written by your program coordinator or department chair is **not** an acceptable document. Electronic or digital signatures will **not** be accepted.

**25. Can I apply for more than one scholarship?**

Yes, if you meet all eligibility requirements; however, you can only be awarded one.

**26. When must the two-year commitment of service be met?**

The two-year commitment to the target population begins as soon as you gain employment in the field after graduation. If the scholar returns to school for a different degree or postdoctoral training and is actively accepted into an educational program, the commitment timeframe would be extended until after graduation from that program.

**27. Would postdoctoral training qualify for the required two-year commitment of service?**

No, it would not qualify as time toward the commitment.

**28. How long should my personal statement be?**

Personal statements can be up to five double spaced pages. Any pages past the fifth page will **not** be considered in the review.

**29. What should be included in my personal statement?**

Instructions on what to include in your personal statement are included in the application.

Your personal statement is an example of your writing and is weighted heavily in your overall score. Effective personal statements show your heart and your passion. They are factual, thorough, articulate, and free of grammatical or spelling errors. Personal statements are limited to five double spaced pages. If more than five double spaced pages are submitted, we will only review the first five.

Written in narrative style, your personal statement should cover the following (\*Note where some prompts differ depending on which scholarship the applicant is applying for):

- 1) **YOUR INTEREST.** Why are you interested in the scholarship?
- 2) **YOUR PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS.** Describe your professional/counselor identity.
- 3) **YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE TARGET POPULATION.** Communicate your commitment to the mental health needs of underserved populations.
- 4) **YOUR EXPERIENCE.** Where appropriate, use examples of your work/personal experience with the target population.
- 5) **YOUR PLAN.** Include a clear plan for how you intend to serve the selected population. This can be through an internship, volunteer experience, or paid work.
- 6) **YOUR NEED.** Indicate your financial need.