

Sam Walton Community Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

DEADLINE: Applications are due by January 29 at 5:00 p.m., Central time

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Legal Resident of the United States
- Cannot be a Walmart Stores, Inc. Associate; the dependent of a Walmart Stores, Inc. Associate; or the dependent of a Walmart Stores, Inc. Board of Directors member as of March 29, 2010
- Must be a high school senior graduating between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010. Home school diplomas and GED equivalency certificates are eligible with the same completion date requirement.
- Must have a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4-point unweighted scale, and have taken either the ACT or SAT test
- Applicants must plan to enroll for fall 2010 as a freshman at a two-year or four-year college or university that is located in the U.S. and is accredited and listed on the official website of the U.S. Department of Education (<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>). Military academies are not approved institutions.
- Must have financial need and be able to demonstrate the need with required documents. (Note: Students with other funds that pay entirely for tuition, books, fees, and on-campus room and board are ineligible.)

Note: Additional guidelines apply. See [Program Guidelines](#) for complete details.

What are the details of the award?

- Nationally, over 2,500 nonrenewable scholarships will be awarded.
- Winners will be selected from the pool of applicants in their state.
- The one-time \$3,000 award is paid at the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year.
- Funds will be applied to undergraduate studies at a U.S. Dept. of Education accredited institution. (Military academies are not approved institutions.)
- Funds may be applied to tuition, fees, books, and on-campus room and board for the 2010-11 academic year.

What are the selection criteria?

- Students with complete applications and meeting **all** eligibility criteria will be considered for selection.
- An independent selection committee will evaluate the applications and select the winners.
- The committee will consider:
 - Financial need
 - Academic achievements and records
 - School and community activities and leadership
- All decisions of the selection committee are final and are not subject to appeal.

When can I apply?

Between November 2, 2009 and January 29, 2010

How do I apply?

Go to the Sam Walton Community application site: <http://www.act.org/walmart/community> and follow the on-screen instructions to register and create an account.

While creating my registration account, I was told that the account already exists. I have never tried to log in before; how can that be?

During registration you must select a unique User ID – something that no one else in the system has ever used before. If you complete a registration and immediately get a message that the account cannot be created because it already exists, it is likely that you have tried to register with a User ID that is already in use by another applicant. You will have to try something different for the User ID. Be sure to write down what you have

tried, prior to clicking Submit. Keep track of the User ID that works successfully, and save it until after the scholarship deadline has passed. Once you have registered successfully, a confirmation email will be sent to you to help you remember your User ID.

How do I change my password or User ID?

Your User ID is a unique identifier that was created when you first filled out the registration section, and it cannot be changed. If you have forgotten your User ID, go to the login page and click on **Forgot User ID or Password?** for additional instructions.

You have options for changing your password. Upon failure of an attempt to log in, click the **Forgot User ID or Password?** link located on the login page to have your password sent to your email account.

I am locked out of my account. What do I do now?

If you have tried three consecutive times to log in with a wrong User ID or password, you will receive a message that your account is disabled. If this happens, please [Contact Us](https://www.act.org/walmart/contact.html) online (<https://www.act.org/walmart/contact.html>).

Do I have to finish my application all at once, or can I save it and come back later?

You will be able to return to the application to update and edit as frequently as desired. After you have submitted the application, or after the **January 29 deadline**, the application will no longer be available. To return to your application:

- Return to the Sam Walton Community application site: <http://www.act.org/walmart/community>
- Go to **Step 4** and click the **Return to Application** button.
- Enter your User ID and Password.
- Click **Login**.
- Click on each tab and make changes to the necessary section(s).
- To save your updates, click the **Save** button and then log out.

If I get an error message about my essay, what should I do?

This may happen when you save your essay or go to another page. The error is usually related to the essay character count. If you exceed the limit, the system will not allow you to submit your essay. Reduce the number of characters, and it should work. Keep in mind that characters include letters, numbers, and spaces.

Why do I see strange symbols in the essay box when I copy and paste my essay responses?

Special characters (apostrophes, double quotations marks, etc.) and formatting (bold, italics, underlining, etc.) may be problematic when you choose to cut and paste from another software program. To avoid this problem, remove or replace the special character(s) and formatting before pasting. For more information, please click here: <https://www.act.org/host/rpsweb/pdf/SpecialCharacters.pdf>

How do I properly log out?

When you are ready to log out, be sure you have saved any updates that you were working on. Log out using the **Logout** tab in the left navigation menu.

How do I check the status of my application?

- Return to the Sam Walton Community application site: <http://www.act.org/walmart/community>
- Go to **Step 5** and click the **Review My Status** button.
- Enter your User ID and Password.
- Click **Login**.

How do I know that my application has been properly submitted?

When you submit your application, you will see a message stating that you have successfully submitted your Sam Walton Community application; in addition, you will receive a confirmation email once your application is successfully submitted.

The day after you submit your application, you can go to the Sam Walton Community application site: <http://www.act.org/walmart/community> and click the **Review My Status** button; your application status will then show as COMPLETE.

What happens after the scholarship deadline?

Semifinalist notifications will be emailed in **late February 2010**; semifinalists will be asked to provide supplemental documents (transcripts, etc.) for receipt by **March 8, 2010**. The notification email to semifinalists will contain additional details. Final notifications will be emailed to all applicants in **early May 2010**.

What are my responsibilities as a recipient?

- The recipient must be actively enrolled full time as a freshman in the fall 2010 and for the entire academic year at a two-year or four-year college or university that is located in the U.S. and is accredited and listed on the official website of the U.S. Department of Education (<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>). Military academies are not approved institutions.
- The recipient must continue in school the entire academic year without interruption, barring illness, emergency, or military service.
- All school transfers are subject to accreditation approval.
- The recipient must deliver the scholarship check to the proper office at their institution and notify ACT immediately if there are changes to the institution or to their personal contact information.

How and when are checks issued?

- Checks are issued by ACT, Inc.
- Checks will be made payable to the student's approved college or university and mailed to each recipient's mailing address by August 1, 2010.
- It is the recipient's responsibility to notify ACT should the check not arrive within 30 days of the issue date.

Are scholarships taxable?

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition or textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against your scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax advisor for more guidance.

Program Administration

To assure complete impartiality in selection of winners and to maintain a high level of professionalism, the program is administered by Scholarship and Recognition Services, a service of ACT, an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides assessment, research, information, and program management services in the broad areas of education and workforce development.

Additional Questions

Contact Us online (<https://www.act.org/walmart/contact.html>)

Walmart Scholarship Programs

ACT Scholarship and Recognition Services