



The Smith Mountain Branch of the American Association of University Women (SMAAUW) is offering **six \$5000 scholarships** for the 2026-2027 academic year. Scholarships are awarded to assist Virginia women whose permanent residence is in Franklin, Bedford or Pittsylvania County (including Danville City) in continuing their post-secondary education. The award is granted and administered by the Smith Mountain Branch of AAUW and will be forwarded directly to the recipient's college for tuition only. In order to receive the award, an applicant must have been accepted at an accredited college and verified their enrollment. All applicants will be notified about the status of their application when final decisions have been made (approximately May 1, 2026).

WHO SHOULD APPLY

1. You must be a female.
2. Your primary, permanent residence must be in Bedford, Franklin or Pittsylvania County (including Danville City).
3. You must have a demonstrated financial need.
4. Your college GPA is at least 3.2.
5. You must currently be a student pursuing a degree at an accredited United States college.
6. You must have completed at least one semester at an accredited United States college.
7. If you are a dual enrolled applicant (a high school student who is simultaneously taking college courses) you must have **completed at least 12 credits** at an accredited United States college to be eligible; college courses not yet completed do not count towards the 12 credits.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Financial need.
2. High academic achievement. This is based on your last official transcript and supported by two letters of recommendation, one of which must be provided by a professor from the college you are attending.
3. A strong essay describing goals and accomplishments.
4. Work experience.
5. Volunteer experience.

Note: Some consideration is given for first generation college students, non-traditional students and members of single-parent families.

APPLICATIONS Application materials are available on our website smithmountain-va.aauw.net (click the scholarship tab).

The following supplemental documents must be included with the completed application.

1. Essay (see application materials for details).
2. Most recent official transcript from your college. **For dual enrolled students, a high school and a college transcript must be provided separately.**
3. Two letters of recommendation, including at least one from a professor where you are attending college.
4. Completed checklist.

All documents from the applicant should be submitted online at the [Scholarship Application portal](#). To ensure that your materials are properly filed, please be sure that your full name is part of the file name for each document submitted.

Letters of recommendation may be submitted separately to the [Scholarship Application Portal](#) or sent directly to **smithmountain-va@aauw.net**. Letters of recommendation should be submitted on letterhead indicating the college or organization.

APPLICATION DEADLINE Applications and all supporting documents must be received **no later than 12 midnight April 1, 2026**. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

CONTACT INFORMATION Questions may be addressed to Marsha Protinsky, Scholarship Chairperson, at smithmountain-va@aauw.net.

APPLICATION ADVICE Please follow the directions in the application packet carefully. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Remember to include your loans, grants and college debt on your application form and address financial need in your essay. If you are the first generation in your family to attend college, a nontraditional student or from a single parent family, please address this in your essay.

NOTE FOR AWARDEES Scholarship recipients are strongly encouraged to attend the luncheon on Saturday, May 16, 2026 in Moneta, VA for the formal presentation of awards. If this is not possible, a written acceptance statement is required and will be read at the event by the Scholarship Chair or your designated representative.