



## 2026 Adult Learners Scholarship Guidelines

The Desert Financial Adult Learners Scholarship recognizes members who are seeking funds to help them pursue their educational and career goals.

In 2026, thirty applicants will be selected to receive \$3,000 each in scholarship funds distributed directly to the Arizona-based college, university, or professional certification program of their choice.

### Scholarship Requirements

- Be age 25 or older
- Be a current member or a relative of a member in good standing (i.e., hold a share (savings) account with a minimum balance of \$25 and no delinquencies)
- Be enrolled in (or have plans to attend) an accredited college, university, or certification program in Arizona during the 2026-2027 academic year, graduating no sooner than Spring 2027.
- Show a demonstrated financial need
- Write essays describing your current educational and career goals and financial needs.

### Application Process

Before you start your application, there are a few things you should know. The application does not save or allow you to return later to complete it. You will need to have all your information ready before you start, so you can complete the process in one sitting. You will be notified in April if you are selected to receive the scholarship.

### Application Checklist

*The following is a list of items you should gather or be aware of **before starting your application.***

#### General:

- ☐ Desert Financial account number and the member's first & last name
- ☐ Educational plans, including major, minor, or certification information
- ☐ Intended college name
- ☐ Yearly educational program cost
- ☐ Combined household income

### Essay Questions

You will be asked to submit essay responses to the following questions. The essay questions provide an opportunity for you to elaborate on your current educational and career goals and financial needs. Each response may be up to 2,000 characters.

- ☐ What are your educational plans? Why did you select this path of study?
- ☐ Thinking long-term, how will your educational plans help you reach your career goals?  
How is your intended career or program helping others?
- ☐ How will this scholarship contribute to your household becoming more self-sufficient?  
Please list any financial, professional, or personal barriers that this scholarship may assist you in overcoming.

### **Important Reminders**

Please gather all the information needed before starting the online application – partial applications cannot be saved.

Applications must be submitted by **March 13, 2026**

***WAIVER OF LIABILITY/PUBLICITY RELEASE:*** By submitting your information for the award, you grant Desert Financial the right to use your name, image, voice, statements and/or other likenesses and information for advertising, promotional, trade and/or any other purpose in any media or format now known or hereafter devised, throughout the world, in perpetuity, without limitation and without further compensation, consideration, permission or notification, unless prohibited by law.