



Scholarship Program

Eligibility Criteria & Application Requirements

The Iowa Restaurant Association Education Foundation (IRAEF) Scholarship Program is available for students enrolled in or accepted to a culinary arts, hospitality management or other foodservice-related post-secondary program. Preference is given to Iowa residents who are current graduating ProStart students and ProStart alumni.

Eligibility Criteria

- United States Citizen or Permanent Resident in the United States.
- Preference is given to Iowa residents who are current graduating ProStart students and ProStart alumni.
- Applicant must be enrolled or accepted as a full-time or substantial part-time student at an accredited post-secondary institution, college or university for the 2025-2026 school year. A substantial part-time student is enrolled for more than 6 credit hours per semester.
- Applicant's major must be in a culinary arts, hospitality management or other restaurant/hospitality management/foodservice-related post-secondary program.
- Applicant must plan to be enrolled for at least two consecutive terms.

Application Requirements

Note: The submission of any materials with an application other than those requested will be disregarded. Example: newspaper articles, resume, reports, etc.

- Complete and submit application form, duly signed and certified. By completing one application, you will be considered for the Iowa Restaurant Association Education Foundation's Scholarships being offered for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Submit transcript from each high school attended (copies of your transcript will be accepted). Only one transcript required.
- Submit proof of enrollment in or acceptance to an accredited post-secondary culinary arts, hospitality management or other restaurant/hospitality management/foodservice-related post-secondary program. **Note: If application for admission has been filed, but is pending when this scholarship application is submitted, scholarship will be awarded contingent upon acceptance to a qualified culinary arts, hospitality management or other restaurant-foodservice-related post-secondary program.**
- Submit one or more letters of recommendation on letterhead from current or previous teachers or employers. (Recommended: 1 Professional & 1 Personal OR 2 Professional.)
- Submit **TYPED** completed essays. **If you do not answer the essay questions with your submission, your application will be rejected. Be sure to check for proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. It is acceptable to have a teacher, counselor or parent review your responses to the essay questions for any possible errors.**

***Take Note...**These are the same essay questions asked on the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation Scholarship Application. Therefore, save your answers!

Scholarship Committee will score the following:

- Presentation of application and essays (spelling, punctuation, neatness, etc.). **(30%)**
- Restaurant-related work experience. **(20%)**
- Transcript included. **(5%)**
- Contents of letter or letters of recommendation. **(20%)**
- Response to essay questions. **(20%)**
- Level of ProStart participation (*check one below*). **(5%)**

- None
- Completed FRMCA/ProStart courses
- Applying for National ProStart Certificate
- Received National ProStart Certificate
- Not offered in my school

Important Deadlines

- April 25: Scholarship Application closes
- June: Scholarship Application Review & Judging
- July: Scholarship award notifications
- Early August: Scholarship payments mailed to post-secondary institutions
- November: Scholarship recipients recognized at Iowa Restaurant Association Awards Ceremony (*more details will be sent to all scholarship recipients*)

All applicants will be notified of their status via U.S. Mail and/or Email and/or Phone.

Send your completed application, transcripts, copy of your post-secondary acceptance letter or proof of enrollment (or if not yet accepted, your statement concerning where your application is pending) and letter or letters of recommendation no later than

Friday, April 25, 2025 to:

Iowa Restaurant Association may Education Foundation
ATTN.: May Schaben
1501 – 42nd Street, Suite 294
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

OR

Application and accompanying documents can be scanned and emailed to:
kadams@restaurantiowa.com



All instructions and deadlines are valid only for the specific scholarship and deadlines stated on the instructions and application. Once the stated deadline has expired, the instructions and application are no longer valid. If you need current scholarship information, please contact the Iowa Restaurant Association Education Foundation at 515-276-1454.