



2026 Scholarship Program FAQ

1. What Scholarships are available?

The USTA Foundation offers three scholarship opportunities to support students from under-resourced communities.

College Launch Scholarship - This scholarship is for high school seniors preparing to enter college for the first time.

- All awards are multi-year, distributed evenly over four years, and paid directly to the student's college or university.
- Award amounts vary for each student based on financial need.
- Award amounts are determined by financial need. While awards can go up to \$80,000 total (\$20,000 per year), please note that this maximum is rare and reserved for applicants with the most significant need.
- The USTA Foundation is proud to partner with generous donors who make this program possible through various named awards. While students apply through a single process, the selection committee will determine the best fit for each recipient across these named scholarships.
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - High school senior enrolling full-time in a two-year or four-year college or university or trade school
 - GPA of 3.0 or higher (students with GPAs between 2.5 - 2.99 may be considered with strong extracurricular involvement).
 - Demonstrate financial need
 - Connection to a USTA Foundation NJTL chapter or other organized tennis program. Note: Priority is given to USTAF NJTL participants, but all eligible young people may apply.

College Success Scholarship (New for 2026) - This scholarship is for students already enrolled in college, those who took a gap year, or those returning to school after time away.

- Provides support for students who are committed to completing their degrees but were not previously part of the USTA Foundation's scholarship program.
- Awards are multi-year, with the number of award years determined by the number of years a student has remaining until graduation.
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Currently enrolled in college, took a gap year, or returning to finish your first undergraduate degree.
 - GPA of 3.0 or higher (students with GPAs between 2.5 - 2.99 may be considered with strong extracurricular involvement).
 - Demonstrate financial need
 - Has had a connection to a USTA Foundation NJTL Chapter or other organized tennis program, or has a current connection to an NJTL chapter through volunteering or working there. Note: Priority is given to NJTL alums, but all eligible young people may apply.

Novo Nordisk Donnelly Scholarship - This scholarship is for student-athletes who play tennis and are impacted by diabetes.

- Supported by the Donnelly family, Novo Nordisk, Dexcom, Cecilia Health, and Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc.
- Provides two National Awards of \$15,000 each and ten Regional Awards of \$7,000 each
- Separate application with questions about your tennis journey and experience being impacted by diabetes.
- All awards are one-year only and paid directly to your college or university.
- Eligibility Criteria
 - Be a high school senior enrolling in college or a current college student pursuing your first undergraduate degree.
 - GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - Be impacted by diabetes.
 - Student-athlete who plays tennis

2. What materials do I need to submit?

All applicants must submit:

- Online application (available December 15, 2025 - February 29, 2026)
- Most recent transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, coach, or mentor
- Personal essay
- Basic financial information (Adjusted Gross Income and household size)

Additional Details by Scholarship:

- College Launch Scholarship:
 - The essay focuses on passions, values, and future goals
 - Recommendation typically comes from a high school teacher, counselor, coach, or NJTL chapter leader
- College Success Scholarship:
 - The essay focuses on your college journey and plans for degree completion
 - The transcript must be from your current or most recent college or university
- Novo Nordisk Donnelly Scholarship:
 - The essay focuses on your tennis journey and how diabetes has impacted you.
 - Transcript may be from high school or college/university, depending on current status.

3. How does the application process work?

- Application Open: December 15, 2025
- Application Deadline: March 15, 2026
- Top Finalists Notified: End of March 2026
- Finalist Phone Interviews: Early April 2026
- Final Selections: End of April 2026

4. What happens if I'm selected as a finalist?

If you're selected as a finalist for any of the three scholarships:

- You'll complete a confirmation form with updated financial documents, college plans, and athletic scholarship details (if applicable).
- You'll participate in a phone interview with the selection team in April.

Note: Being selected as a finalist does not guarantee that you will receive a scholarship.

5. How are scholarship funds distributed?

College Launch Scholarship

- Funds are paid directly to your college or university.
- Awards are divided evenly over four years.

College Success Scholarship

- Funds are paid directly to your college or university
- Awards are divided evenly over the remaining years of enrollment until you complete your degree

Novo Nordisk Donnelly Scholarship

- Funds are paid directly to your college or university
- These scholarships are one-time awards for the academic year.

6. Do I need to reapply each year to keep my scholarship?

College Launch and College Success Scholarships:

- You do not need to reapply each year. Instead, you'll complete an annual renewal form to confirm you are meeting the scholarship requirements, such as:
 - Maintaining a 3.0 GPA
 - Remaining enrolled full-time

Novo Nordisk Donnelly Scholarships:

- These are one-time awards, but students may reapply in future years if they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

7. What can my scholarship funds be used for?

Scholarship funds are paid directly to your college or university and can be applied toward:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board (on-campus or off-campus housing)
- Books, supplies, and academic expenses
- Other approved education-related costs

Each scholarship is designed to support your overall college experience. Note: Acceptance of scholarship funds may affect the overall financial aid package that you receive from your college/university.

8. Can I apply for multiple scholarships?

Yes! If you qualify, you may apply for more than one scholarship opportunity.

- Separate applications must be completed for each scholarship.
- Example: A student may apply for the College Launch Scholarship and the Novo Nordisk Donnelly Scholarship if they meet both criteria.

Important: While you may apply to multiple scholarships, you will only be awarded one scholarship. The selection committee will determine which scholarship is the best fit based on your application and the overall pool of candidates.

9. Where can I apply or get help?

- Links to applications here
- Questions? Email scholarships@usta.com

10. I am having trouble with submitting my application. What do I do?

Please email scholarships@usta.com.