2027 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 in fall 2027.

- 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.
- 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/vocational program for the fall 2027 term.
    - A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is preferred. Students below a 3.0 may still apply and will be asked to share context about their grades.
    - Demonstrated 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.
    - Planning a gap year or a deferred start? Apply to the College Success Scholarship instead in the fall 2027 application cycle. The College Launch Scholarship requires enrollment in fall 2027.
- **APPLY HERE**

College Success Scholarship - This scholarship is for students already enrolled in 2-year or 4-year college or trade/vocational program, 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, determined by the number of years a student has remaining until the end of their postsecondary program, up to four years.
- Award amounts vary for each student based on financial need and are paid directly to the student's college or university.
- Eligibility Criteria:
    - Currently enrolled in college, took a gap year, or returning to finish your first undergraduate degree.
    - Enrolled full-time for the fall 2027 term. Part-time students are not eligible.
    - Have not previously received a USTA Foundation college scholarship, excluding the Novo Nordisk Donnelly Scholarship.
    - A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is preferred. Students below a 3.0 may still apply and will be asked to share context about their grades.
    - Demonstrated 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.
- **APPLY HERE**

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

- Supported by the Donnelly family, Novo Nordisk, Dexcom, and Cecilia Health.
- Provides two National Awards of $15,000 each and ten Regional Awards of $7,000 each.
- Submit a separate application with questions about your tennis journey and how diabetes has impacted you.
- All awards are one-year only and paid directly to your college or university.
- Eligibility Criteria
    - Be a high school senior enrolling in a 4-year college or a current 4-year college student pursuing your first undergraduate degree.
    - GPA of 3.0 or higher.

    - Be living with diabetes.
    - Student-athlete who plays tennis.
- APPLY HERE

2. What materials do I need to submit?

All applicants must submit:

- Online applications
    - College Launch and College Success scholarship applications are available November 9, 2026 - February 28, 2027.
    - Novo Nordisk Donnelly scholarship application is available November 9 - April 1, 2027.
- Most recent transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, coach, employer, mentor, or program leader who knows you well. How it is submitted differs by scholarship, so read the details below.
- Personal essay
- Basic financial information (Adjusted Gross Income and household size). If your family did not file taxes, you may select an income range instead.

Additional Details by Scholarship:

- College Launch Scholarship:
    - The essay asks you to describe aspects of yourself that we cannot learn from the application itself, using your own words. Write it yourself. You may check spelling and grammar, but do not use AI to write or rewrite your response.
    - One recommendation is required. A second recommendation is optional.
    - Recommendations are submitted directly by your recommender through a link you receive after you submit your application. Do not upload the letter yourself. Recommendations are due March 7, 2027.
- College Success Scholarship:
    - The essay asks you to describe aspects of yourself that we cannot learn from the application itself, using your own words. Write it yourself. You may check spelling and grammar, but do not use AI to write or rewrite your response.
    - A separate short answer question asks how this scholarship will help you continue your education and finish your degree.

    - The transcript must be from your current or most recent college or university.
    - One recommendation is required. You may upload it yourself with your application. Because you upload the recommendation with your application, it is due February 28, 2027. (Same deadline as the application.)
- 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?

College Launch and College Success Applications

- Applications Open: November 9, 2026
- Application Deadline: February 28, 2027
- Finalists Notified: March 22, 2027
- Finalist Phone Calls: March 23 - April 7, 2027
- Scholarship Recipients: by April 15, 2027

Novo Nordisk Scholarship Application

- Application Open: November 9, 2026
- Application Deadline: April 1, 2027
- Finalists Notified: April 15, 2027
- Finalist Phone Calls: April 19 - April 23, 2027
- Scholarship Recipients Notified: April 30, 2027

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 and submit a confirmation form with updated financial documents, college plans, and athletic scholarship details (if applicable).
- You will have a short phone call with our USTA Foundation team. The call confirms the application is yours, helps us get to know you better, and confirms your college plans are current. It is not an interview.

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 the duration of your postsecondary program.

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 postsecondary program.

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 supports your overall college experience. Note: Acceptance of scholarship funds may affect the overall financial aid package that you receive from your college/university.

8. **What if my GPA is below a 3.0?**

You can still apply for the College Launch and College Success Scholarships. A 3.0 is preferred, not required. The application gives you space to share what was happening during that time. Grades are one part of the application, and the selection committee considers the application holistically.

9. **What if I plan to take a gap year or defer my enrollment?**

The College Launch Scholarship is for students enrolling in fall 2027. If you plan to take a gap year or defer, apply to the College Success Scholarship instead in the fall 2027 application cycle, which is built for students starting or returning after time away.

10. 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.

11. Where can I apply or get help?

- Application links are listed in question 1 above.
- Questions? Email scholarships@usta.com

12. I am having trouble submitting my application. What do I do?

Please email scholarships@usta.com.