



\$1,500 Deb Gates Scholarship ♦ \$3,000 Herman Lerdal Scholarship ♦ \$3,000 Joyce Hazeltine Scholarship
\$3,000 David S. Birkeland Scholarship ♦ \$4,000 Alan M. Graff Scholarship

2026 Scholarship Application

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- MUST BE A COLLEGE SENIOR DURING THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR
- EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A CAREER IN BANKING OR FINANCE (may include business, finance, IT, cybersecurity, HR, marketing, etc.)
- HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP LISTED ABOVE FROM THE SD BANKERS FOUNDATION

GENERAL INFORMATION (Please print or type.)

Name: _____

Current Mailing Address (including city, state, zip): _____

Summer Mailing Address (including city, state, zip): _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Alternate Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Student ID # OR Last 4 of Social Security Number: _____

EDUCATION (Your college transcript is required.)

Name of University Currently Attending: _____

Will you be a college senior in fall 2026 (*Please check a box.*)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Expected University Graduation Date (month/year): _____

List major(s) and minor(s): _____

Overall GPA: _____

Name and location of previous colleges attended:

#1: _____

of Hrs. & GPA: _____

#2: _____

of Hrs. & GPA: _____

#3: _____

of Hrs. & GPA: _____

TO APPLY FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE VIA EMAIL TO EVENTS@SDBA.COM NO LATER THAN **MARCH 31, 2026.**

APPLICATION PACKAGE:

1. AN ESSAY OR VIDEO ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING:

Please answer this question in either a written essay, not to exceed 500 words OR a three-minute video: “How can my career positively impact South Dakota’s banking industry?”

In your essay or video, please describe your career goals in the banking/finance industry. Highlight any banking/finance work experience, internships, etc. that may help you attain your goals. Include information outlining your leadership experiences, community services, extracurricular activities, etc. that you have had that have impacted your career goals.

2. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (Two letters are required.)

Two letters of recommendation need to be submitted with your application. The authors of the letters should describe in detail why the applicant is a promising candidate for this scholarship. Include testimonials that speak to the accomplishments, character, and leadership qualities of the applicant.

3. TRANSCRIPT

Include your college transcript in your application package. An unofficial copy will be accepted.

4. APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE

Applicant’s Signature _____ Date _____

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- ☐ <= 500-word essay or three-minute video file.
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Transcript (official or unofficial)
- ☐ Signed application form (above)

Scoring will be based on depth of your essay/video content, completeness of the application package. **Notification of award status will be made by Friday, May 1, 2026.** If chosen, your scholarship award will be paid directly to your university.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026.



Questions?

605.224.1653 ♦ www.sdba.com ♦ events@sdba.com