



## Power Your Transition scholarship FAQ

### **What is the RSM Power Your Transition Community College scholarship?**

The RSM US Foundation is supporting students who complete an associate's degree between December 2025 and August 2026 and plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in business or technology by fall 2026. To help ease the transition to a four-year college or university, the program will award 10 students with \$10,000 scholarships each for the 2026/2027 academic year. In total, the program will provide up to \$100,000 in scholarships across the 10 recipients.

Beginning with the fall 2026 semester, each scholarship will be disbursed directly to the recipient's college or university in two installments of \$5,000 per semester, contingent upon continued eligibility. Funds will be applied toward the recipient's tuition and/or room and board.

In addition to the scholarship, each recipient will be invited to attend an optional RSM information session.

### **What if I already receive scholarships or financial aid?**

Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's college or university and applied to invoiced expenses such as tuition, on-campus housing and dining plans. Funds cannot be used for off-campus housing or disbursed directly to the recipient. To receive the scholarship, recipients must have eligible expenses billed by their institution.

### **Who is eligible to apply for this scholarship?**

For a full list of eligibility requirements, please refer to section one of the terms and conditions. In summary, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. permanent resident (holder of a Permanent Resident Card), an individual granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program or an individual with asylee, refugee or temporary protected status who is authorized to work in the U.S.
- Be at least 18 years old at the time of application.
- Be on track to or have graduated from a qualifying community college with an associate's degree in business or technology between December 2025 and August 2026.
- Be pursuing a bachelor's degree in business or technology at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States or District of Columbia with courses beginning in fall 2026.
- A student in good standing with a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or above.
- Interns of RSM, including individuals who have accepted a future internship or have completed an internship, are eligible to apply for and receive a Scholarship, provided, however, that an individual's status as a future, current or past intern of RSM has no bearing on their likelihood of receiving a scholarship.

### **Who is not eligible for the scholarship?**

Individuals who are full-time and/or part-time employees, temporary employees, partners, principals or contractors (and their immediate family members) of RSM US LLP, Risk & Regulatory Consulting, LLC, and their respective affiliated entities and of the RSM US Foundation are not eligible.

### **Do I have to major in business or technology when I go to an accredited four-year college/university?**

Yes, any change in major outside of business or technology will forfeit future scholarship payments.

### **Do I need to be a full-time student when I am pursuing my bachelor's degree?**

Yes, you need to be a full-time student at an accredited four-year college or university when pursuing your bachelor's degree to qualify for this award.



## When is the deadline to apply?

Eligible students may submit their applications between 12:01 a.m. Central Time on March 1, 2026 and 11:59 p.m. Central Time, April 30, 2026.

## What do I need to do to apply?

Applicants will need to create a video, craft a statement and gather their unofficial transcript as follows:

- Video:
  - You will need to create a **30 to 60 second video** demonstrating which of RSM's 5 C's you think comes most naturally to (and best fits) you.
    - What are the 5 C's? See the full description in the Terms and Conditions or view them here <https://rsmus.com/about/vision-100.html>.
    - **Note: Videos shorter than 30 seconds or longer than 60 seconds will result in disqualification.**
  - Your video must contain only original content. It is recommended to simply capture yourself and to not include other people, photos, videos, music or content other than you to comply with the terms and conditions of this scholarship.
  - Upload your video to YouTube.
    - **Please select “Unlisted”** from the visibility settings when you upload your video on YouTube, so that your Video is not publicly available.
      - An **unlisted video** on YouTube is a type of privacy setting that allows the video to be viewed by anyone who has the direct link, but it **won’t appear** in public places like:
        - YouTube search results
        - Your channel page
        - Subscriber feeds
        - Recommendations or related videos
      - Unlisted videos share content privately without making it completely public.
    - You will need the link to your video when submitting your application.
- Statement: You will need to craft a personalized statement of up to 1,500 characters on what motivates you to grow forward to pursue a bachelor's degree in business or technology from a college or university
- **IMPORTANT:** Your video and statement must be created solely by you without the use of material from preexisting written or visual works or assistance from artificial intelligence ("AI"), including but not limited to generative AI writing assistants or video creators.
- Unofficial transcript: You will need to obtain a copy of your unofficial transcript.

## How do I submit my scholarship application?

- When you have your **unlisted** YouTube video link, statement and unofficial transcript, visit <https://rsmus.com/careers/starting-your-career/scholarships/power-your-transition-scholarship.html>
- Review the scholarship program description and terms and conditions on the page linked above.
- Click the “Apply now” link on the website.
- You’ll be redirected to the application site through Blackbaud’s GrantsConnect.
- Create an account or sign in if you’re a return user.
- Once you’ve signed in, click “Start new application” and answer the eligibility questions on the next screen—students who meet the eligibility requirements will be prompted to begin the application.
- Complete the form questions, accept the appropriate terms and submit your application.
- You will be unable to edit your application once submitted.
- You will receive an email confirmation once submitted.
- If you create an initial draft application that you do not submit, GrantsConnect will send you reminders to apply before the deadline.



### **How are recipients selected?**

Applications will be judged based on the statement (30%), applicant's community college GPA (30%) and the quality of the video (40%).

- Judges will grade the statement, GPA and video each on a scale of one to seven, with seven being the highest score.
- The judges will evaluate the video based on the applicant's professionalism, originality, substantive content, charisma, passion, thoughtfulness and creativity in conveying how the selected "C" from RSM's 5 C's comes most naturally to (and best fits) the applicant.
- The judges will evaluate the statement based on creativity, quality of writing and reflection of the applicant's individuality.
- The applicants who receive the highest scores based upon the judging criteria will be deemed potential recipients of Scholarships and will move forward in the judging process to be reviewed by a panel of judges.
- The ten scholarship winners will be selected based on the panel's view of which applications demonstrate the best understanding of, and have the highest and best potential impact on, RSM's 5 C's and business.

### **When will I know if I am selected?**

The RSM US Foundation will attempt to notify selected recipients in late May.

### **I did not receive an award this year. May I apply again next year?**

This program is only open to recent community college graduates who are enrolling in a four-year college by fall 2026. While you may not apply again next year, we recommended reading the requirements for the [Power Your Education](#) and [First Generation](#) scholarships to see if you are eligible.

### **Questions?**

Send an email to [RSMscholarships@rsmus.com](mailto:RSMscholarships@rsmus.com).