

The logo features a white shield-shaped icon containing the letters 'KC' in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the shield, the word 'SCHOLARS' is written in a large, white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

# KC SCHOLARS

**KANSAS CITY SCHOLARS TRADITIONAL  
AND ADULT LEARNER PROGRAM GUIDELINES**



# Table of Contents

3	ABOUT THE KCS PROGRAM
3	ABOUT THE KCS PROGRAM GUIDELINES
4	APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS TIMELINE
4-5	SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
6	DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BEFORE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND THE INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT
7	EFC APPEALS PROCESS
7	EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
7-8	MAXIMUM SCHOLARSHIP VALUE AND MAXIMUM NUMBERS OF YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT
8-10	SCHOLARSHIP USE GUIDELINES
10-11	RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AWARDEE
11	WITHDRAWAL AND DISMISSALS
12	KC SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP & GREAT JOBS KC CONCURRENT PARTICIPATION
12	KCS POSTSECONDARY NETWORK
13-15	GLOSSARY OF COMMON TERMS
16	KCS CONTACT INFORMATION

# About the KCS Program

Kansas City Scholars (KCS) is a scholarship and student support program for low- and modest-income students that live in and/or attend a high school in and adults who reside in one of six counties in the Kansas City metropolitan area: Wyandotte and Johnson Counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte Counties in Missouri. KCS launched in September 2016, made its first awards in May 2017, and the first class of Scholars enrolled in college in the fall 2017.

KCS offers three categories of college scholarship opportunities:

- Traditional (11th grade application, not to exceed \$50,000 total value)
- Adult learner (high school graduate or equivalent, age 18 or older as of annual application deadline, not to exceed \$50,000 total value)
- College savings program (9th grade application, not to exceed (\$1,400 total value for awards made 2021 or later).

An individual desiring to receive a scholarship in one of these categories must meet the eligibility criteria for the specified category and must apply for the scholarship in compliance with the application requirements.

KCS expects to award at least 650 new scholarships annually: at least 250 traditional, 150 adult learners, and 250 college savings match and incentives participants.

KCS Goals:

- 80% of Scholars that enter college complete a degree or credit-bearing credential within six years,
- 80% of Scholars graduates enter the Kansas City regional workforce with a family sustaining career,
- 90% of Scholars graduates are satisfied with their post-secondary experience

The KCS scholarship may be used only at one of the higher education institutions within the KCS Postsecondary Network (<https://kcscholars.org/scholarships/>) of colleges and institutions.

## About the KCS Program Guidelines

These KCS Program Guidelines contain the set of parameters that guide administration of KCS. KCS reserves the right to amend and update these Program Guidelines as the program evolves and participants in the KCS program shall be bound by the then-current version of the Program Guidelines. KCS further reserves the right to make exceptions to these Program Guidelines when circumstances lead KCS to believe, in its sole discretion, that fairness and consistency in operation of the KCS program warrants the granting of an exception. All decisions made by KCS staff in awarding and/or denying a scholarship or renewal of a scholarship, and any exceptions to these Program Guidelines, are final and are not subject to appeal.

There are separate Program Guidelines for Traditional 11th grade/Adult Learner, College Savings Match, and institutional-only awards.

These guidelines are publicly available and posted on KCS's official website – <https://kcscholars.org/programguidelines/>

# Application & Selection Process Timeline

Important dates for scholarship applications, reviewing, awarding, and annual renewal deadlines are listed on the KCS official website at [kcscholars.org](http://kcscholars.org) and on the KCS scholarship portal. These dates will be refreshed annually.

## Scholarship Application Eligibility Criteria

An individual must meet the criteria shown in the table below to be eligible to apply for a scholarship. However, neither the meeting of these criteria nor applying for a scholarship guarantees award of a scholarship. These eligibility criteria are publicly available and published on KCS’s official website.

	Traditional Scholarship	Adult Learner Scholarship
<b>Geographic</b>	At the time of application and continuously through high school graduation, live in and/or be enrolled in a public, charter, or private high school in one of these six counties: Jackson, Clay, Cass, and Platte in Missouri and Wyandotte and Johnson in Kansas*	Be a resident of one of these six counties at the time of application: Jackson, Clay, Cass, and Platte in Missouri, and Wyandotte and Johnson in Kansas
<b>Income Maximum Threshold</b>	12,000 EFC (Expected Family Contribution as demonstrated by KCS determined EFC calculator at the time of application and FA)	12,000 EFC (Expected Family Contribution as demonstrated by KCS determined EFC calculator at the time of application and FAFSA at the time of the award)
<b>Citizenship &amp; Immigration Status</b>	U.S. Citizenship is not required to apply	U.S. Citizenship is not required to apply
<b>Grade/Age at Time of Application</b>	11th grader	Documentation of high School graduation or equivalent, age 18 or older as of annual application deadline -
<b>GPA or College Admissions Test</b>	Minimum 2.5 unweighted cumulative high school GPA including 9th grade, 10th grade, and fall semester of 11th grade OR a minimum test score of 16 on ACT or 800 composite on SAT (Must achieve minimum GPA OR minimum test score to be eligible upon application AND upon graduation).	No minimum GPA requirement, but applicants must submit official college transcripts for all credit-bearing institutions attended prior to application

All applicants must apply for a scholarship using the online scholarship application portal designated, maintained, and managed by KCS. Applications are accessible through the KCS official website – [kcscholars.org](http://kcscholars.org). Applicants with visual impairments or other disabilities that may preclude them from applying online may contact KCS to make other arrangements to apply for a scholarship.

Applications that are fully completed and submitted in accordance with the application requirements will be evaluated for the scholarship component (traditional, adult learner, and college savings match) applied for in accordance with the evaluation rubrics in effect at the time for each scholarship component. Though the rubrics will not be disclosed publicly, the completeness, accuracy and quality of the information submitted by an applicant on his/her application will be evaluated and considered by a panel of reviewers.

An applicant must provide an EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) calculation at the time of application in order for his/her application to be evaluated. An applicant's EFC calculation from the FAFSA calculator referenced in the application or the FAFSA itself must be 12,000 or less in order for the applicant to be eligible to receive a scholarship. The calculation is based in part on household income, number of members in the family, and number of family members that will be in college at the same time. The EFC is the amount of annual support a family can be expected to contribute toward the student's college education. An EFC estimate provided by the Federal Student Aid EFC calculator tool is acceptable at the time of application. However, a FAFSA calculation must be provided prior to initial payment of a scholarship. Applicants and scholarship recipients will use tax information from the prior-prior tax year as is standard and accepted practice for completion of the FAFSA and Federal Student Aid EFC calculator.

It is possible that an awardee's EFC would change between the time of application and college enrollment. Thus, an applicant's EFC will be evaluated at the time of application and at the time of initial college enrollment to determine if the awardee is still eligible for the scholarship. When scholarship awardees provide their required documentation, KCS will review any EFC that has risen above the eligibility requirement of 12,000 or less. KCS may apply professional judgment to grant an exception. It is also possible that a Scholar may be selected for verification of their FAFSA data. When this happens the postsecondary institution the Scholar attends will verify information used for FAFSA completion and the resulting EFC. If an EFC changes to be greater than the eligibility criteria of 12,000 or less, the postsecondary institution will notify KCS. KCS may apply professional judgment to grant an exception to this income limit in unusual circumstances where fairness and consistency of administration lead KCS to believe that it should grant an exception.

\*Note that applicants for the 11th grade and 9th grade awards must live in and/or be enrolled in a public, charter, or private high school in one of these six counties: Jackson, Clay, Cass, and Platte in Missouri, and Wyandotte and Johnson in Kansas. And/or in this statement allows for and is specific to those students that attend a school – with the school geographically located in one of the six service counties that enrolls students from multiple counties to be eligible to apply if they live outside the six counties but attend school within the program's service counties. Applicants may also be home schooled and live in one of these six counties: Jackson, Clay, Cass, and Platte in Missouri, and Wyandotte and Johnson in Kansas.

**NOTICE OF EXCEPTION:** Kauffman Foundation “Trustees, officers and directors” and their immediate families will be ineligible to apply for and receive a KC Scholars’ scholarship. Other Kauffman Foundation associates, vendors, and contractors – if they meet the eligibility criteria – are eligible to apply but are not guaranteed to receive an award. These applications will be screened as are all others and through the pre-determined processes that are consistently applied to all applications.

Kansas City Scholars “Trustees, officers, and senior management” and their immediate families will be ineligible to apply for and receive a KC Scholars’ scholarship. Other Kansas City Scholars associates, vendors, and contractors – if they meet the eligibility criteria – are eligible to apply but are not guaranteed to receive an award. These applications will be screened as are all others and through the pre-determined processes that are consistently applied to all applications.

# Documentation Required Before College Enrollment & the Initial Scholarship Payment

In order for KCS to pay an awarded scholarship, each awardee must enroll in college for the fall semester immediately following high school graduation or in the case of adult learners, the fall immediately following award of the scholarship.

Traditional scholarship recipients (11th graders) are awarded in 11th grade. However, the awardee must continue to meet eligibility requirements throughout their remaining high school career in order for KCS to pay an awarded scholarship. Therefore, whether an applicant has met the required high school GPA or college admissions testing eligibility requirements will be verified both at application submission and upon high school graduation.

To verify that a scholarship awardee remains eligible to receive the scholarship for the first year of college, it is required that additional documentation be submitted by awardees to KCS prior to first fall enrollment. All paperwork is required to be submitted on the KCS online scholarship portal. The table below lists all documentation that is required for the recipient to remain eligible to receive the scholarship. Failure of an awardee to submit the required documentation may make the awardee ineligible to receive a scholarship.

	Traditional Scholarship	Adult Learner Scholarship
<b>Documentation Required to be Submitted During Senior Year of High School for Traditional Awardees, or Before Enrolling in College for Adult Learners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation of EFC per FAFSA- Student Aid Report (SAR) (must remain at 12,000 or less) or alternate form provided by KCS for students ineligible for FAFSA</li> <li>College admissions letter</li> <li>Final transcript</li> <li>Documentation of graduation from a school in a county included in the program or home school graduation documentation (cumulative high school GPA must remain at 2.5 or above)</li> <li>Enrollment Form verifying fall enrollment</li> <li>Authorization for Release of Information</li> <li>Media release form</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admissions letter</li> <li>Student Aid Report from FAFSA (must show EFC of 12,000 or less) or alternate form provided by KCS for students ineligible for FAFSA</li> <li>Enrollment Form verifying fall enrollment</li> <li>Authorization for Release of Information</li> <li>Media release form</li> </ul>

# EFC Appeals Process

Scholarship awardees must document an EFC (estimated family contribution) of 12,000 or less prior to initial college enrollment. Appropriate documentation includes a Student Aid Report generated by FAFSA or other documentation as needed and approved by KC Scholars staff for Scholars not eligible to complete the FAFSA.

Traditional Scholars must submit EFC documentation as part of the Senior Year Documentation process. Adult Learner awardees must submit EFC documentation prior to Orientation. Failure to submit EFC documentation will result in removal from the scholarship awardee class.

If the awardee submitted EFC is greater than the 12,000 application eligibility requirement, the Scholar may submit an appeal for review and consideration. Appeal applications must be submitted directly via the KCS scholarship portal. Appeal decisions will be made by KC Scholars. Completion of an appeal application does not guarantee approval; all appeal review decisions are final.

## Early High School Graduation

New awardees who graduate high school early – the same year they are awarded – must inform KCS as soon as possible, by June of their awarded year, in order to maintain eligibility for the upcoming fall term.

## Maximum Scholarship Value & Maximum Numbers of Years of Scholarship Support

The time period during which an awardee’s scholarship may be paid (the “Payment Period”) starts at the following time:

- Traditional Awardees – the Payment Period begins the second fall after awarding (New awardees who graduate high school early – the same year they are awarded – must inform KCS as soon as possible, by June of their awarded year, in order to maintain eligibility for the upcoming fall term)
- Adult Learner Awardees – the Payment Period begins the fall term after awarding

For traditional and adult learner awardees, the maximum Payment Period is six (6) years, but each individual’s Payment Period will end upon the attainment of a bachelor’s degree OR use of \$50,000 of KCS scholarship support if that occurs prior to the end of six (6) years. The table below details the amount KCS will send to the Scholar’s PSN institution each semester.

Enrollment Status and Type	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester
Full-time (12+ credit hours during Fall/Spring; 6+ hours in summer) 4-year institution (including Donnelly College) attendance	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
Full-time (12+ credit hours during Fall/Spring; 6+ hours in summer) 2-year institution (and Western Governors University) attendance	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,250
3/4-time (7-11 credit hours during Fall/Spring; 4-5 hours in summer) 4-year institution (including Donnelly College) attendance	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$1,875
3/4-time (7-11 credit hours during Fall/Spring; 4-5 hours in summer) 2-year institution (and Western Governors University) attendance	\$1,875	\$1,875	\$937.50
Part-time (1-6 credit hours during Fall/Spring; 1-3 hours in summer) 4-year institution (including Donnelly College) attendance	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,250
Part-time (1-6 credit hours during Fall/Spring; 1-3 hours in summer) 2-year institution (and Western Governors University) attendance	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$625

KCS will track the number of years and scholarship value used from and remaining in the Payment Period for each Scholar. The term award will not exceed the values listed and described above.

Support for degree programs that combine an associate's and bachelor's or/and undergraduate and a graduate or professional degree is possible as follows: Some campuses offer programs that combine undergraduate study with a graduate or professional degree, that last for a period that exceeds six years. KCS will provide scholarship support (per all guidelines and requirements described in these Program Guidelines) for these programs, but support from KCS will not, in any case:

- Exceed six (6) maximum total years, OR
- Exceed \$50,000 in scholarship payments, OR
- Continue after a bachelor's degree is awarded.

Scholars are permitted to complete double majors and dual degrees as well as earn minors and certificates in addition to their major(s), so long as they are able to complete their bachelor's degree within six (6) maximum total years AND within the maximum \$50,000 KCS scholarship payments.

## Scholarship Use Guidelines

Scholarships are paid directly to the postsecondary institution of enrollment and not to the student. In order for KCS to pay an awarded scholarship, the awardee must attend an institution in the KCS Postsecondary Network. The institutions that are part of the KCS Postsecondary Network are listed at the end of these Program Guidelines and on the KCS official website.



	Traditional Scholarship	Adult Learner Scholarship
<b>Postsecondary Institution Type</b>	KCS Postsecondary Network Institutions	KCS Postsecondary Network Institutions
<b>Application Date</b>	11th grade of high school	Fall
<b>Date When Student Starts at Postsecondary Institution</b>	Fall term immediately following senior year of high school	Fall term following award of the scholarship
<b>Minimum Enrollment Status and Minimum Number of Credit Hours to be Completed</b>	Full-time Minimum of 12 credit hours per semester and 24 credit hours per year, unless Scholar asks KCS to take fewer credit hours via the semester enrollment form	Part- or Full-time

The following guidelines outline how awarded scholarship funds must, may, and may not be used.

KCS scholarship funds **must be** used for:

1. College credits that lead to a credit-bearing credential or degree.
2. Expenses directly associated with successful degree completion, as defined by each individual institution. Items that Institutions often include within their definitions of expenses directly associated with successful degree completion include tuition, fees, educational supplies, course books, residence hall living costs, food plan, campus-based childcare and information technology, such as computers, software, hardware, and subscriptions, etc. for use in school.

In the event that KCS scholarship support combined with other institutional, state and federal aid exceeds Total Cost of Attendance as defined by the institution of enrollment, KCS encourages each institution to consider (a) carrying the balance over to the next succeeding term (or for summer) within an academic year so that the awardee may pay for eligible expenses in that term, (b) allowing the student to utilize the funds at qualified locations on campus to purchase items that would be considered expenses directly associated with successful degree completion for the duration of that semester or (c) providing a voucher for purchasing of items that would be considered expenses directly associated with successful degree completion. If the Institution is unable to do any of the above, the Institution will refund the excess funding to KCS at the end of each academic year.

KCS scholarship funds **may be** used for:

1. Concurrent dual credit enrollment at more than one campus in the KC Scholars Postsecondary Network. However, advance approval to dual enroll is required to be obtained by KC Scholars. A request for approval must be submitted in writing and pre-approved.
2. Study abroad and internship credit only if the experience results in college credits earned and applied toward a credit-bearing credential or degree and only if they are billed for the credit hours by the institution of enrollment within the postsecondary network via the student account.
3. Online credit-bearing courses that are required for or count as electives for the credit-bearing credential or degree being sought by the KCS awardee.
4. Coursework that leads to a credit-bearing credential or degree, including ESOL, developmental classes, and other required pre-requisites, even if they are non-credit-bearing.
5. Rolling forward to the next semester within the award year (fall to winter/spring and winter/spring to summer).
6. Classes taken at a branch campus located in MO and KS of the institutions in the KCS Postsecondary Network.

KCS scholarship funds **may not be** used for:

1. Dual credit or any other college courses taken during high school.
2. Previous institutional debt.
3. Refund to the student. At no time may KCS funds be refunded directly to the student, just as they are not paid directly to the awardee but rather to the postsecondary institution of enrollment.
4. Earning of multiple bachelor's degrees, unless awarded during the same semester.
5. Graduate level coursework unless an awardee is enrolled in a program that combines undergraduate and graduate level programs in one course of study, and the Scholar has not yet been awarded their bachelor's degree.

Additional information on acceptable uses of KCS funds can be found here: <https://kcscholars.org/qualified-educational-expenses/>

## Responsibilities of The Scholarship Awardee

KCS is a program that provides financial support for college attendance and completion and also provides supports to its recipients to aid in their success in and completion of a college credit-bearing credential and/or degree. To accomplish this and best support its scholarship recipients, KCS needs to develop and nurture close communication with recipients. As such, there are basic expectations and requirements associated with being supported by the KCS program.

The KCS academic expectation each semester for Traditional Scholarship awardees and full-time enrolled Adult Learner Scholarship awardees is completion of 12 credit hours with at least a 2.0 GPA. Adult Learner awardees with part-time enrollment are expected to maintain a 2.0 GPA for the number of credit hours for which they are enrolled. KC Scholars encourages Scholars to utilize all available enrollment terms, fall, spring, and summer, to complete their academic goals within four years whenever possible.

Consistent communication with a scholar's assigned KCS Advocate is essential to KCS persistence and retention supports. Scholars that experience difficulty in completion of their degree plan or meeting KCS expectations will work with their Advocate to identify resources and supports available both on-campus and specific to the KCS community. Failure to meet program expectations with limited KCS program engagement in consecutive semesters may result in additional responsibilities as part of a scholar's semester enrollment plan. These responsibilities may include additional campus or KCS engagement activities and/or enrollment targets to support a scholar in maintaining scholarship eligibility as they work to meet academic expectations.

It is required and expected that KCS scholarship awardees engage fully in and be responsive to the program by fulfilling the expectations and responsibilities outlined below:

1. Submit a signed Release of Information that will be shared with the campus of enrollment
2. Completion of semester enrollment plan through the KCS portal prior to each semester enrolled in college coursework
3. Completion of portal tasks as required
4. Review KCS Program Guidelines on an annual basis that are posted on KCS's official website
5. Attend and participate in all required KCS Orientation sessions and meetings
6. Respond promptly to KCS requests, particularly for ongoing surveying that will occur both when you are in the KCS program and for years thereafter

7. Provide KCS with up-to-date contact information, including email, phone number, and mailing address
8. Read and reply promptly to all notifications from the KCS program
9. Notify KCS immediately of any changes in status that are directly relevant to KCS eligibility criteria and/or status as a college student (specifically if a student wants to transfer from one institution to another mid-year with notification to occur before a transfer is made, but also if changing enrollment statuses)
10. Complete the FAFSA each year by the priority deadline date of the college of enrollment if eligible to complete the FAFSA
11. Participate in persistence and completion supports that KCS assigns to each Scholar
12. Maintain consistent engagement with assigned KCS Scholar Advocate
13. Meet all KCS program deadlines

Scholars maintain scholarship eligibility through documentation of a semester enrollment plan. Semester enrollment plans completed after stated deadlines may result in delayed scholarship payments and/or enrollment limitations at partner institutions. Failure to complete a semester enrollment plan will result in a scholar being ineligible for scholarship support during that term.

## Withdrawals and Dismissals

If a Scholar has withdrawn from KC Scholars or been dismissed, they are not eligible to apply again for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Awardees are requested to communicate in writing to KC Scholars that they wish to withdraw from the program. Any awardee dismissed from the program will receive written communication from KC Scholars documenting their dismissal. Scholars will receive prior notification regarding the reasons or grounds for dismissal before any action of dismissal is taken. This notification allows the scholars to have an opportunity to address any concerns or take necessary actions to rectify the situation before a final decision is made regarding their dismissal.

KC Scholars may dismiss a Scholar if there is no communication to requests for documentation, especially in the case of repeated and final communication requests with specific deadlines given.

# KC Scholars Scholarship and Great Jobs KC Concurrent Participation

KC Scholars provides scholarship programs (Traditional, Only Scholarships, College Savings Match, and Adult Learner) and a variety of training programs in high demand fields via Great Jobs KC (GJKC). Concurrent participation in GJKC and a scholarship program is allowed; however, an awardee may only receive financial support from KC Scholars for a single program in an enrollment term (fall, spring, or summer).

- Scholarship awardees that opt to complete a GJKC training program during their payment period with the scholarship program may do so, but they will not receive a scholarship payment for the enrollment term(s) during which GJKC training takes place.
- If an awardee opts to enroll in a training program with GJKC, the awardee must finish their program responsibilities with GJKC before resuming scholarship program support.
- The scholarship payment period for an awardee's scholarship program does not pause with GJKC enrollment; all applicable eligibility terms and payment guidelines remain in-place. The 6-year maximum timeline will not be extended by the awardee's enrollment in GJKC.

## KCS Postsecondary Network

KCS has established a Postsecondary Network of colleges at which the KCS scholarship funding may be used to earn a credit-bearing credential or degree. The KCS Postsecondary Network includes the institutions listed below and their branch campuses:

1. Avila University
2. Baker University
3. Donnelly College
4. Johnson County Community College
5. Kansas City Art Institute
6. Kansas City Kansas Community College
7. Kansas State University
8. Lincoln University
9. Metropolitan Community College
10. Park University
11. Rockhurst University
12. University of Central Missouri
13. University of Kansas
14. University of Missouri- Columbia
15. University of Missouri- Kansas City
16. Western Governors University
17. William Jewell College
18. Beginning in Fall 2024: Northwest Missouri State University
19. Beginning in Fall 2024: University of Saint Mar

# Glossary of Common Terms

The KCS program entails many words that are specific to higher education. To provide greater access to meaning behind terminology used, this glossary defines those words and phrases.

ACT – A standardized test for national college admissions. All 4-year colleges and universities in the U.S. accept ACT scores.

Appeal – A request to have KCS re-evaluate a decision based on unusual circumstances or incorrect information.

Beneficiary – The person whose education expenses are to be paid out of the savings held in a 529 college savings account. The beneficiary must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien with a valid Social Security number or other taxpayer identification number.

COA (or Cost of Attendance) – The total amount of college expenses before financial aid that a student should expect to pay in order to attend a specific institution. Cost of attendance includes money spent on tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and living expenses. Each institution has its own method for calculating the Cost of Attendance at that Institution.

College Savings Match Program – One component of the KCS program is a college savings match program whereby 9th graders that are accepted into the program have a 529 college savings account set up, with a \$50.00 initial deposit into the account made by KCS, and are then able to contribute to the account by May 1st of the awardee's Senior Year and then have their contributions matched by KCS.

Credit-bearing Courses – A college course for which an Institution awards a student credits for the successful completion of a specified college-level course.

Credit-bearing Credentials – A credential is a certificate awarded for the successful completion of certain requirements a postsecondary institution has established in order to earn a certificate. A credit-bearing credential is one for which all courses successfully taken and completed to earn it resulted in college credit for the hours completed.

Cumulative GPA – A number that shows overall academic performance and is computed by assigning a point value to each grade earned. Cumulative refers to the average GPA over a set period of time (e.g., middle school, high school).

Developmental Courses – Sometimes referred to as remedial courses, these are classes that students must take and successfully complete before enrolling in college-level courses. The decision about whether a student must take and complete developmental courses is assessed on the basis of proficiency as estimated through college entrance testing and also on the basis of prior academic performance. Some developmental courses are credit bearing and others are not.

Eligibility Criteria – The set of basic standards that must be met in order to be eligible to apply for the KCS scholarship program. KCS criteria include geographic factors, academic performance factors, grade level or age requirements, and income threshold requirements.

Eligibility Requirement Check – When a potential applicant enters the KCS scholarship portal, he/she will

need to take and pass the eligibility criteria check in order to apply.

Enrollment Status – A classification based on the number of credit hours a student is taking (full-time or part-time). Some loans or financial aid may be available only to students with a certain enrollment status. In the case of KCS, traditional scholarship and college savings match recipients must enroll in college full-time and adult learners can enroll part- or full-time.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – Expected Family Contribution is based on household income and number of members in the family (and number that will be in college at the same time) and is the amount of money that a family can be expected to pay toward the student’s college education. The EFC number is used to determine a student’s eligibility for federal student financial aid. This number results from the financial information provided in the FAFSA, the application for federal student aid. To learn more about Expected Family Contribution, go to: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/help/fftoc01g.htm> <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid that is administered by the U.S. Department of Education to determine a student’s eligibility for federal financial aid. Most states and colleges and universities use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for state and federal financial aid.

Federal Student Aid Estimator – A tool used to estimate the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) used earlier than when the actual FAFSA itself is completed. For KCS, traditional scholarship applicants (11th graders) and college savings match applicants (9th graders) will utilize the Federal Student Aid Estimator as it will not yet be time to complete the FAFSA at the time when they apply for the KCS scholarship. Adult Learners may use the Federal Student Aid Estimator or the FAFSA SAR at the time of their application.

FAFSA Verification – About 30% of all FAFSA filers will be selected for verification which is the process of the college or university a student will be or is attending collecting documentation to validate the accuracy of the information provided on the FAFSA form and the resulting Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

GPA (Grade Point Average) – A number that shows overall academic performance and is computed by assigning a point value to each grade earned.

Online Scholarship Portal – KCS uses an online portal for all scholarship applications, documentation, communication, rewarding notifications, appeals, and all other processes to run the KCS program. The portal is accessible to scholarship applicants and awardees from the KCS website and also at [apply.kcscholars.org](http://apply.kcscholars.org)

Post-secondary – Post-secondary is used to refer to any education that occurs after secondary or high school. College, university, postsecondary institution, and institution of higher education are terms that are used interchangeably.

Post-secondary Institution – This term is used to refer to a college or university and may also be called a higher education institution or an institution of higher education.

Program Guidelines – This document is referenced as the Program Guidelines for KCS and identifies the key requirements and processes related to a person’s participation in KCS.

Renewal – The process of completing KCS portal tasks each enrollment term.

SAR (Student Aid Report) – The financial aid report provides individuals with basic information about their eligibility for federal student aid, including the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAR is sent to students by Federal Student Aid after the FAFSA is submitted.

SAT (Scholastic Achievement Test) – The SAT is a standardized test that is used by some colleges and universities to make admissions decisions.

Scholarship – A scholarship is gift aid or funds given to a student that do not need to be paid back. Scholarships are given to select students that meet criteria set forth by the program to establish who is eligible to apply. Each scholarship program sets its own criteria and process for making awards.

Selection Criteria – Criteria set forth by KCS and upon which decisions will be made regarding awarding of the KCS scholarship after the initial application. Reviewers apply the Selection Criteria to award points to applicants based on answers provided on the application and ultimately to determine to whom scholarships should be awarded. As with most scholarship programs, selection criteria are not publicly published.

Transcript – The official record of a students' course work at a high school, college or university, showing courses taken, credit hours attempted and completed, GPA (both term and cumulative), and number of credit hours earned. Official Transcripts are awarded by each institution provided that a student is in good standing.

Undergraduate Degree – An associate's or bachelor's degree or a credit-bearing credential that is awarded to a student upon completion of the requirements established by a certain Post-secondary Institution.

Additional helpful glossaries are available at:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-admission-glossary>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/financial-aid-glossary-learn-the-lingo>

# KCS Contact Information

For additional information about KC Scholars, please direct inquiries to:

- Phone: 816-581-5700
- Email: [scholarships@kcscholars.org](mailto:scholarships@kcscholars.org)





**KC** SCHOLARS