

## NPC Friends and Family Scholarship FAQs

### 1. Do I have to complete the FAFSA to apply for NPCFF scholarships?

**Yes.** Some NPCFF scholarships, such as the Fill-the-Gaps, are awarded only to students who are receiving financial aid (the Pell grant). The Leg-Up grant is only for students who do not qualify for financial aid, as demonstrated by their FAFSA. For each NPCFF scholarship, you must have documentation of your financial aid status. This can mean a copy of your award letter, a copy of your denial letter, or the first page of your Student Aid Report (SAR) which is generated when you complete the FAFSA. **DO NOT SEND YOUR ENTIRE SAR WITH YOUR APPLICATION.** Many scholarships, not just those offered by NPCFF, require that you complete the FAFSA, so it really is in your best interest to do so, even if you think or know you won't qualify for financial aid. Here's the link: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

### 2. If a scholarship says it is "need based", can I still apply for it, even if I don't qualify for financial aid?

**Yes!** Lots of students who don't qualify for financial aid actually have great need, because they are the ones who "fall between the cracks". The key is to include the first page of your Student Aid Report (SAR) which is generated when you complete the FAFSA, and which shows your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). *You must also clearly explain your need for the scholarship in your essay.* See "Tips for Writing Your Scholarship Essay" at <https://www.npc.edu/file/download/36165> for details. The scholarship review committee should have a strong understanding of exactly how you will use the scholarship, if you are awarded.

### 3. Can I apply for more than one scholarship? Do I have to write a separate essay for every scholarship I apply for?

You certainly can apply for more than one scholarship! Apply for as many as you qualify for, *but do not apply for any that you do not qualify for!* Read the criteria for each one carefully. **You do not have to write a brand-new essay for every scholarship, but you should always tailor your essay to the scholarship for which you are applying.**

### 4. If I am awarded a scholarship, when will I get the money?

Most NPCFF scholarships are disbursed by the NPC Financial Aid Office (928-524-7318) a couple of weeks prior to the start of the semester. The scholarship will be applied first to any balance on your NPC student account. The remainder will be disbursed to you according to whatever arrangements you make, or have made, with the NPC Business Office (928-524-7480). Here's an example: You win the NPCFF Leg-Up Scholarship in the

amount of \$500.00. Your student account has a balance of \$100.00. The scholarship will pay off the \$100.00 balance, and you will receive the balance of \$400.00.

**5. If I don't win a scholarship, can I apply for it again?**

**Yes!** NPCFF scholarships are awarded every semester, for the following semester. The application window to apply for Fall NPCFF scholarships is around March 1 every year, with a closing date around April 15. The application window to apply for Spring NPCFF scholarships is around October 1 every year, with a closing date around November 15. All applicants are notified of the outcome of their submissions about two weeks after the closing date. This allows you to plan for semester registration.

**6. If I win a scholarship, can I apply for it again?**

Yes, but there is a limit to the number of consecutive semesters in which you can apply. See the application instructions for each scholarship for full details.

**7. The scholarship instructions say I have to submit my unofficial transcripts or degree audit. How do I get these?**

You can access your unofficial transcripts from your personal account at MyNPC. The key is that the transcripts or degree audit must show your degree intent and your cumulative GPA for classes taken at NPC. You can request a degree audit from your academic advisor.

**8. Can I send you my letters of recommendation with my application?**

**No.** Each letter of recommendation must come directly from the author, per the application instructions. Letters of recommendation must also be submitted before the deadline date, or the scholarship application will not be reviewed. Ask for letters of recommendation early, and don't be afraid to remind those who are writing them of the deadline!

**9. If I withdraw from my classes, will I have to pay back my scholarship?**

**Yes.** You are expected to complete the number of credits required for the scholarship. Failure to do so will result in the requirement that you pay back the scholarship. If you are unable to do so, you will not be able to apply for NPCFF scholarships in the future. Please contact me at [betsy.wilson@npc.edu](mailto:betsy.wilson@npc.edu) with specific questions, if you find yourself in this situation.