



WISER Scholarship

Overview

WISER is a unique interdisciplinary organization for professionals who work in fields that serve students and individuals with learning and accessibility needs in the DC metro region. WISER members are seasoned professionals and experts in their fields.

The **WISER** Scholarship was established in 2011 by the WISER Board of Directors to support students who have documented needs for accommodation and who demonstrate engagement in their communities.

For 2025, WISER will be awarding two scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,500. Scholarships are generously sponsored by **Illuminos Academic Coaching & Tutoring** and **Kenneth Stefano & Associates** along with donations from our members.

Scholarship Sponsors



General Criteria

- Applicant must be a **high school senior pursuing post-secondary education** who lives and attends school in the **DC metro region**
- Applicant must have **documented need for accommodation** (please see below)
- Applicant must demonstrate **engagement in their community** (including, but not limited to, volunteering, caring for a sibling or elder, working for a local business, etc.)

Application Requirements

1. **Letter of Documentation**, which could include a psycho educational or neuropsychological evaluation; copy of 504 or IEP or formal school learning/accommodation profile; or letter from a healthcare provider or school learning specialist.
2. **Application Form, including short answer responses and signed certification statements** [included].
3. **Letter of Recommendation** from an adult who is not a family member, including a school counselor, teacher, mentor, supervisor, religious leader, or other person familiar with your community engagement [form included]. A maximum of **one** recommendation letter will be accepted and considered.

The completed application, including letter of documentation, application form, and letter of recommendation, must be **received by close of business on March 21, 2025**. Please ensure that all required materials are mailed to **WISER, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 323, Hamilton, VA 20159**.

www.wiserdc.org



WISER Scholarship
Application Form

Please fill in or check all areas. An incomplete application will not be considered for the WISER Scholarship.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Preferred Pronouns: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

High School _____
Name State Zip Code

Year of Graduation _____

Post-Secondary Education Plans:

☐ Four Year College or University

☐ Community or Junior College

☐ Vocational Training Program

☐ Other: _____

How did you find out about this scholarship?



WISER Scholarship

Short Answer Questions

The WISER Scholarship Committee is interested in hearing your unique perspective. **Please respond to each question using your words and your voice.**

Your response may be **typed or recorded**. If you choose to submit a recorded speech, please email wiser@wiserdc.org, and include "WISER Scholarship Recorded Speech" in the subject line of your email. Acceptable audio file formats include MP3 or MP4.

Question 1: As a student with a documented need for accommodation, how would you explain the challenges you face? How have you adapted and learned from those challenges? **[100 – 250 words]**

Question 2: Describe a community that is important to you and how you meaningfully engage with it. **[100 – 250 words]**

Question 3: The WISER Scholarship Committee is interested in learning more about you. Please respond to one of the prompts below **[100 – 250 words]**:

- A. What do you want to study and why? **OR**
- B. How would you use this scholarship?

Short Answer Checklist

✓ **Review**

- Read each response out loud or listen to your recorded speech.
- Did you address all parts of the question?
- Does the response sound like you?
- Did you use specific examples and precise language?
- Do you sound confident?

✓ **Proofread**

- Did you include your name on each page of your response?
- Did you capitalize each sentence and use appropriate punctuation?
- Did you use spell check?
- Did you check your draft for errors and typos that may have been missed by spell check?

✓ **Share**

- Ask someone who knows you well – a teacher, parent, mentor, or friend – to read your response or listen to your recorded speech.
- Show them this check-list and ask them to help you review and proofread your responses.



WISER Scholarship
Letter of Recommendation Form

We appreciate your taking the time to provide this letter of recommendation. The **WISER Scholarship** seeks to recognize **students who have documented needs for accommodation and who demonstrate engagement in their communities.**

Please fill in all areas.

Applicant Name: _____

Please describe your professional connection to the applicant:

Your Full Name: _____

Your Signature: _____

Professional Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

How long have you known this student and in what context?

Letter of Recommendation

The WISER Scholarship Committee is interested in learning more about the scholarship candidate. Please describe the candidate's leadership qualities, community engagement, and other personal characteristics. Your letter will play an important role in the evaluation of the candidate, so please make sure to address the scholarship criteria in your recommendation.

Please attach your letter of recommendation to this sheet and enclose the form and letter in a sealed envelope. The applicant will submit your recommendation form and letter with their application materials.

Application materials must be received by mail at close of business on March 21, 2025.

If you have questions regarding this letter of recommendation, please email wiser@wiserdc.org. Please include "WISER Scholarship Recommendation Question" in the subject line of your email.



WISER Scholarship
Privacy Act Advisory Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974(P.L. 93.579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for data. Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised:

1. The authority for the collection of this data is Public Law 93-642.
2. Submitting the information requested is voluntary.
3. The main purpose for which the data will be used is the selection of award winners for the WISER Scholarship.
4. Other routine uses of the data are for public affairs and press releases to news media.
5. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for this application.

Statement of Understanding

The applicant and their parent or guardian must sign this application attesting to the following statements:

1. We understand that this application is confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of selecting scholarship winners.
2. We understand that in applying for this scholarship, we agree to abide by the terms stipulated.
3. The information provided in this application will be shared with the WISER Scholarship Committee and the Executive Director and to any parties as it relates to the selection and maintenance of the scholarship program.
4. We understand and agree to allow the applicants name, image, and educational goals and activities to be used by WISER to promote the scholarship program.

Student's Certification Statement

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the information contained in this application is correct and complete, and that the responses to the short answer questions were written by me. I also certify that I have read and understood the Privacy Act Advisory Statement and the Statement of Understanding.

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian's Certification Statement

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the information contained in this application is correct. I also certify that I have read and understood the Privacy Act Advisory Statement and the Statement of Understanding.

Guardian Name: _____

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



WISER Scholarship

WISER Scholarship Application Checklist

The completed application must be received by mail to the WISER Scholarship Committee by close of business on March 21, 2025. We recommend putting the complete application in the mail by March 15, 2025, to ensure the committee receives it by the March 21, 2025, deadline.

We kindly request that you do not staple your application materials together. This allows for efficient handling of your application and ensures that our review process runs smoothly.

The completed application must include:

- ☐ Completed Application
 - ✓ Application Form
 - ✓ Short Answer Response to Question 1 (typed or recorded)
 - ✓ Short Answer Response to Question 2 (typed or recorded)
 - ✓ Short Answer Response to Question 3 (typed or recorded)
 - ✓ Signed Student Certification Statement
 - ✓ Signed Guardian Certification Statement
- ☐ Letter of Documentation
- ☐ Letter of Recommendation & Recommendation Form

Please submit your documents as separate, unstapled pages.

Please ensure that all required materials are mailed to:

WISER
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 323
Hamilton, VA 20159

The completed application must be received by mail to the WISER Scholarship Committee by close of business on March 21, 2025.

If you need additional information, please email questions to wiser@wiserdc.org. Please include "WISER Scholarship Question" in the subject line of your email.