

American Association of University Women (AAUW) College/University 2026 Scholarships for Women

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a national organization that advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

The AAUW Roanoke Valley Branch funds scholarships for women who are:

- Currently enrolled students who are completing high school in the 2025-26 academic year, OR
- 21 years or older and are high school graduates (or High School Equivalency) who have not previously obtained a bachelor's degree, OR
- 21 years or older and are high school graduates (or High School Equivalency) returning to school or enrolling in college or university for the first time.

Eligibility

Any woman matching the eligibility requirements of one of the scholarships listed above, *and* who resides in the Cities of Roanoke or Salem, the Town of Vinton; or the Counties of Roanoke, Botetourt, Craig, or Franklin, may apply for a scholarship. Applicants who may qualify for more than one of the scholarships listed above can **apply for only one**.

Applications

Applications are available in area high school guidance departments or online at the AAUW Roanoke Valley website at <http://roanokevalley-va.aauw.net>. **Please follow the directions in the application packet carefully. The following supplemental documents must be included with the completed application:**

- **Essay**, as required by your particular scholarship.
- **Copy of official high school (or High School Equivalency) or college transcripts**; and
- **One letter of recommendation. Please include the name and contact number of the person recommending you.** A person on the committee may call if additional information is needed.

Scholarship applications may be completed in one of two ways:

- **Completed online and emailed to rvaauwscholar@gmail.com OR**
- **Mailed to Carol Siler, 3409 Ashmeade Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018.**

All materials must be emailed, or mailed and postmarked by Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Incomplete applications or applications postmarked past the deadline will not be considered. Scholarship recipients will be **notified of their award no later than April 15, 2026**. The funds must be used by the end of the **2026-2027** academic year and are not renewable.

For questions about the scholarship application process, please call or send a text to **Carol Siler 540-353-7868** or email rvaauwscholar@gmail.com
Thank you for your interest!

**American Association of University Women (AAUW)
College/University 2026 Scholarships for Women
Scholarship Application**

Choose the **ONE** scholarship for which you wish to apply. **APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2026.** The application must be emailed or postmarked **no later** than the deadline.

- ☐ **\$1,000 Robert D. Torrey and Patricia T. Wagensiel Scholarship** for women looking to major in music or the arts field.
- ☐ **\$2,000 Ruth E. Nelson Memorial Scholarship** for women entering college and who will be pursuing a career in education or the arts.
- ☐ **\$2,000 Scholarship for women** who will complete high school in the 2025-2026 year.
- ☐ **\$2,500 Scholarship for women** who are high school graduates (or High School Equivalency), 21 years or older, and who have not previously obtained a bachelor's degree.
- ☐ **\$4,000 Jennie Sue Murdock Scholarship for Women** who are high school graduates (or High School Equivalency), 21 years or older returning to school or enrolling in college or university for the first time.

Student Name: (Last, First, MI)

Mailing Address: (Street or P.O., City, County, State, Zip)

Phone:

Home:

Date of Birth:

Email (for use only by AAUW Scholarship Committee):

Permanent Address (if different from above): Correspondence regarding this application will be sent to your permanent address.

Street address: (Street or P.O., City, County, State, Zip)

Graduating/Graduated from:

Name of Degree or Diploma:

Date of Degree or Diploma:

City/County:

State:

Educational History (*Provide only post-high school information*): List educational institutions you have attended as well as workshops, seminars, etc. Begin with the most recent information.

Name of Institution	Credit Hrs.	Dates Attended	Degree Granted

MARK APPROPRIATE CHOICE

Level you will be entering college:

Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate School

List in order of your preference the accredited colleges or universities to which you have applied and complete the additional information.

Name of College or Institution	Type of Institution (2yr, 4yr, other)	Accepted? Yes/No/Pending

Degree you will be pursuing:

AA AS BA BS Other

Field of Study

Enrollment status (Priority will be given to full-time students) Full-time Part-time

How many hours/credits will you be taking?

Academic, Leadership, Community, Sports, Clubs, Student Government, Volunteer Work, etc.
List the complete name of the activity. Include the approximate number of hours spent on each activity. Please spell out acronyms.

Honors Received: List name of honor, sponsor (school or organization), and year received.

Employment: List employer, job description, supervisory positions held, date of employment

If you have anything to add that you think is relevant to the committee's understanding of any **special needs you may have**, use this space to let the committee know of any circumstances—financial status, health conditions, family obligations, etc., that make you a special candidate for a scholarship. Special needs will be evaluated with your academic achievements.

ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS: Essay topics are specified below for each of these funds. Your essay is extremely important and should include your name, and the name of the scholarship. **Please submit an essay of 300-400 words and attach along with your application. Follow directions carefully.**

- **\$1000 Robert D. Torrey and Patricia T. Wagensiel Scholarship** for women looking to major in music or the arts field.

***Essay Topic:** What is the role of music and the arts in your life? Do you feel that having the arts in your life and community is important?*

- **\$2,000 Ruth E. Nelson Memorial Scholarship** for women entering college and who will be pursuing a career in education or the arts.

***Essay Topic:** Describe how education or the arts made a difference in your life and how you expect to make a difference to others with your career choice.*

- **\$2,000 Scholarship** for women who will complete high school in the 2025-2026 academic year.

Essay Topic:** Why are you deserving of this scholarship **OTHER THAN FOR FINANCIAL REASONS?

- **\$2,500 Scholarship** for women who are high school graduates (or High School Equivalency), who are 21 years or older and who have not previously obtained a bachelor's degree.

***Essay Topic:** What are your reasons for seeking a college education and why are scholarship funds important?*

- **\$4,000 Jennie Sue Murdock Scholarship for Women** who are high school graduates (or High School Equivalency), 21 years or older, returning to school, or enrolling in college or university for the first time.

***Essay Topic:** What are your reasons for seeking a college education and why are scholarship funds important?*

Financial Aid Assistance Questionnaire

Student Name

INCOME

	Parent/Spouse	Student
Annual adjusted gross income from most recent tax return	\$	\$

CERTIFICATION

I/We certify that the information in this financial aid application is true and complete to the best of our knowledge. I/We understand that falsification of information may result in disqualification and/or termination of any scholarship granted. I/We will supply any additional information the AAUW Roanoke Branch Scholarship Committee may request.

Applicant Name

Date

Parent/Spouse Name

Date

APPLICANTS: Complete all pages of the application and include essay and Letter of Recommendation as required. Check list below.

1. If you are a high school student, make sure a School Official/Guidance Counselor submits an official high school transcript.
2. If you have graduated from high school and have never been enrolled in college, you must attach a copy of your high school transcript.
3. If you are currently enrolled in college, you must attach a copy of your college transcript. If you have only been enrolled for one semester, please submit whatever school record is available.
4. ALL APPLICANTS: If it is the policy of the school you attend NOT to give official school records to students, these records may come directly from the school providing they arrive before the deadline.
5. If you are submitting your application via email or USPS, please attach or include:
 - Application,
 - Essay, *and*
 - Letter of Recommendation