



Breakwater Federal Credit Union is dedicated to positively impacting those we serve by building lifelong relationships, one member at a time.

2026 Breakwater Scholarship Program

Breakwater Federal Credit Union is excited to announce the 2026 Breakwater Scholarship Program! This year, we will be awarding three \$1,500 scholarships to students who demonstrate academic dedication, strong character, financial responsibility, and a commitment to creating brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

Two scholarships are open to all applicants. One is reserved for a first-generation college student as they take the first step toward higher education in their family.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a member of Breakwater Federal Credit Union, with accounts in good standing
- Must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college, university, vocational, or technical program for the upcoming academic year.

Application Materials

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. All materials must be submitted by **Friday, March 27**.

A complete application must include:

- Two reference letters (one school affiliated, one community affiliated)
- Essay response
- Student information sheet

One-page Essay:

Being financially prepared is not just about having money. It is about making informed decisions. As you step into adulthood, what is your plan for building a strong financial foundation?

In your response, consider:

- The financial goals that matter most to you and why
- The steps you plan to take (or are already taking) to build credit, save, or budget
- The financial topics you still want to learn more about, and how you plan to educate yourself
- How being financially prepared will help you contribute to your community or support others in the future



Reference Letters:

All applicants must submit TWO letters of recommendation. One letter must be from a school affiliated professional, such as a teacher, counselor, or coach. The second letter of recommendation must be from a community member who is NOT affiliated with the school. This could include an employer, volunteer coordinator, mentor, or community leader. Letters should highlight the applicant's character, work ethic, leadership, or involvement in school or community activities.

Selection Process

All eligible applications will be evaluated by a scholarship committee, with each committee member reviewing submissions independently using a point-based scoring system. Evaluation criteria include length of membership (up to three points), the content and strength of the reference letters, and the quality of the essay based on length, content, and writing. Decisions of the committee are final.

Award Notification & Disbursement

Applicants will be notified of award decisions no later than April 3. Recipients will be invited to accept their award at Breakwater's Annual Meeting and Dinner on April 21. Scholarship funds will be disbursed directly into their member account once proof of enrollment has been provided and must be used for educational expenses such as tuition, fees, books, or required supplies.

**You must submit your application, essay,
and reference letters no later than**

Friday, March 27

to

**Breakwater Scholarship Committee
700 East Sharon Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931**



Student Information Sheet

Applicants must complete this form and submit it along with all other required scholarship materials for the application to be considered.

| Student Information | |
|---|------|
| Full Name | |
| Address | |
| Email | |
| Phone Number | |
| High School You Currently Attend | |
| College/Trade School You Plan to Attend | |
| Degree/Certification(s) You Plan to Pursue | |
| How long have you been a member of the Breakwater? | |
| First Generation College Student (first in your immediate family to pursue higher education): Yes ___ No ___ | |
| Signature | Date |

Publicity and Recognition (Optional)

Breakwater Federal Credit Union may recognize scholarship recipients through promotional materials, publications, social media, and local media announcements to celebrate student achievements and highlight the scholarship program. Participation in publicity efforts is voluntary and not required to receive the scholarship award. Applicants who wish to give consent may sign below.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if applicant is under 18):
_____ **Date:** _____