2026-2027
MARvelous Education Fund
Scholarship Application

Minnesota JCC

MARvelous Education Fund: Higher Education Scholarship Application

General Eligibility

All Minnesota JCC members and staff are eligible.

Scholarships are available to degree seeking students in a post-secondary program at an accredited college or university.

Criteria

The MARvelous Education Fund Committee awards scholarships based on:

- JCC involvement
- Scholastic performance
- Financial need

1. Preference is given to individuals with a history of involvement at the JCC, who also have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement and have financial need.
2. The MARvelous Education Committee has a very broad definition of financial need as the cost of post-secondary education is very high. The committee considers a number of areas to determine financial need.
3. Applicants can re-apply for the MARvelous Education Scholarship every year, regardless of whether they have or have not received this scholarship in past years.

Timetable

Completed applications, with all required attachments, are due no later than February 27, 2026. Applicants will be notified of a decision before March 31, 2026.

Awards

The fund will award a $5,000 scholarship.

The JCC will issue payment directly to the college or university upon receiving a tuition invoice from the award recipient. Funds may be applied to tuition and academic fees only. Tuition bills must be received before December 31st of the year they are granted, otherwise the scholarship is forfeited. Applicants are encouraged to apply to other funding sources as well.

How to Apply

Submit a completed application form and all other required materials, via email to :

Sara Greenberg, Annual Campaigns Manager
sarag@minnesotajcc.org

In order for your application to be processed, you must furnish the following items:

1. Completed application form.
2. High school transcript and complete college transcript (if you are currently attending college), including the most recently completed semester's transcript.
3. Two letters of reference written exclusively for this scholarship application from an employer, a teacher, advisor, or clergy; not from friends or family members. Letters should be addressed to the MARvelous Education Fund Committee. Letters should address academic achievement, character, and their vision of where your education will take you. Each letter should be submitted in a PDF document, no longer than two pages. Reference letters can be emailed directly to sarag@minnesotajcc.org or submitted with the rest of your application items.
4. One letter of recommendation from a member of the JCC Staff or Board of Directors (current or former).
5. An essay no longer than two pages, and submitted as a Microsoft Word document, that answers the following questions:
    - How has your involvement at the JCC shaped the person you are today and how do you see yourself connected to the Jewish community in the future?
    - What are your academic and/or career goals?
    - In 100 words or less, why would you like to receive the MARvelous scholarship?

Your application will not be reviewed unless all items are received no later than February 27, 2026.

MARvelous Education Fund
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

We are happy to acknowledge your interest in applying for a scholarship.

Return this completed form by February 27, 2026.

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

APPLICANT

First Name_____ Middle_____ Last_____

Current Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Parent/Guardian's Name_____ Email_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone_____ Work Phone_____

Parent/Guardian's Name_____ Email_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone_____ Work Phone_____

2. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND & PLANS

From which high school have you graduated/are you graduating:_____

Graduation Date:_____

Colleges or universities attended:_____

_____

Which college or university do you plan to attend for the next school year, or list possible schools if you are not yet decided:

_____

_____

Major field of study (if known):_____

Minor field of study (if known):_____

You will be:

- ☐ Freshman
- ☐ Sophomore
- ☐ Junior
- ☐ Senior
- ☐ Graduate Student

3. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Put N/A in Parent 1 and 2 occupation lines if you are no longer considered a dependent.
If you are not a dependent, list your occupation and income.

Parent/Guardian 1's occupation:_____

Parent/Guardian 2's occupation:_____

FAMILY INCOME: Using the Adjusted Gross Income from the most recently completed tax year, please check the annual income of your family. This financial information will be kept strictly confidential.

- ☐ Below $49,999
- ☐ $50,000 – $74,999
- ☐ $75,000 – $99,999
- ☐ $100,000 – $124,999
- ☐ $125,000 – $149,999
- ☐ $150,000 – $174,999
- ☐ $175,000 – $199,999
- ☐ $200,000 +

Number of dependents in household (only fill in this line if you are still a dependent):_____

Total number of other family members attending post-secondary programs in the 2026-2027 school year (do not include yourself in this number) – again, only fill in this line if you are a dependent:_____

2026-2027 cost of education for your family (all tuitions)_____

Are you currently employed? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, do you work part-time or full-time? ☐ Part-time ☐ Full-time

Your occupation:_____

Place of work:_____ Phone:_____

If you are married, is your spouse/partner currently employed? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, does your spouse/partner work part-time or full-time? ☐ Part-time ☐ Full-time

Additional Information - Please provide any additional information about your financial status that you think is important for committee members to know._____

_____

_____

4. BUDGET

List your expenses and resources for the school year for which you are applying. Your totals from the Resources side should equal your totals on the Expenses side.

Resources		**Expenses**	
Expected Family Contribution	$	Tuition & Fees	$
Personal Funds	$	Room & Board	$
Grants or Scholarships	$	Other	$
Loans	$		
Other	$		
Total	$	Total	$

5. REFERENCES

Please submit two letters of reference written exclusively for this scholarship application. The committee asks that your letters of reference come from a teacher/professor, advisor, clergy or other non-family member who knows you well enough to discuss academic achievement, character, and their vision of where your education will take you. Please note what programs you were/are involved in at the JCC.

Signature of Applicant_____ Date_____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (If dependent)_____ Date_____

By February 27, 2026:

- Completed application form
- High school transcript and college transcripts if applicable
- Two reference letters written exclusively for this scholarship application, plus a recommendation from a member of the JCC Staff or Board of Directors (current or former), addressed to the MARvelous Education Fund Committee
- Your application essay as a Microsoft Word document

Submit via email to:
Sara Greenberg
Annual Campaigns Manager
sarag@minnesotajcc.org