

THE 2025 GUIDE TO

CULINARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS





THINK YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO ATTEND CULINARY SCHOOL?

Think Again.

When we asked prospective culinary school students in a quiz, “What could stop you from pursuing your culinary dreams?” the top answer we received was, “Paying for school.”¹

The good news is that there are [culinary school scholarships](#) and other funding options available to those who apply and qualify—and who know where to look for them.

Perhaps you’re at the beginning of your career journey and you’re realizing that the traditional college path isn’t for you. Or maybe you’re looking to start a second act with a new career.

Regardless of what stage you’re in, there are opportunities out there that can help with funding.

¹*Escoffier Quiz, November 2020*



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Most of the scholarships listed in this guide are third-party offerings and not offered by Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts. Open dates, deadlines, and application criteria may change. Always check the provider's website for updated information.

01

TYPES OF CULINARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Different types of culinary school scholarships assess applicants in distinct ways.

Merit-based scholarships evaluate candidates' academic achievement and/or culinary skill. Need-based scholarships are awarded to lower-income students, to help bridge their financing gap. Some scholarships are awarded to participants or winners in culinary competitions. And some are only available to people who meet certain personal criteria, like active-duty military or veterans, single parents, certain ethnic groups or races, place of residence, or members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Make sure to read each scholarship's eligibility requirements very carefully to assess your eligibility before applying. And always complete the application process in full.

- **MERIT-BASED CULINARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **NEED-BASED CULINARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **COMPETITION-BASED CULINARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCE AND LOCATION-SPECIFIC CULINARY SCHOLARSHIPS**

01



WHAT IS A SCHOLARSHIP?

A scholarship is a financial award provided to college, university, or trade school students to support their education costs. They may be awarded directly to the student to spend as they wish, or they may be paid directly to the school for tuition and institutional costs. These funds are considered a financial gift and do not have to be repaid.

02

MERIT-BASED CULINARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships are third-party offerings. Open dates, deadlines, and application criteria may change. Always check the provider's website for updated information.

Merit-based scholarships ask the question: how have you proven your passion for the culinary or baking arts? Maybe you worked part-time at a restaurant all through high school and were active in your school's cooking classes. Or maybe you're an adult learner who shares your passion for cakes through a baking hobby and your own blog. Some scholarship applications may also have a GPA requirement, especially for students who have recently graduated from high school.

Start your search for merit-based culinary scholarships with these providers.

- **CAREERS THROUGH CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM (C-CAP) SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS (NRAEF)**
- **AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **THE VEGETARIAN RESOURCE GROUP COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**
- **THE TROTTER PROJECT HOMARO CANTU SCHOLARSHIP**



CAREERS THROUGH CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM (CCAP) SCHOLARSHIPS

Since its founding in 1990, Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP) has been a national leader in providing essential skills, college scholarships, and career opportunities to aspiring culinarians around the country. C-CAP provides assistance to more than 23,000 students each year, and has awarded more than \$73 million in college scholarships to date.

C-CAP Cash Scholarships are offered directly by C-CAP and its donors and can be used for any higher-education expenses.

Please check [C-CAP's scholarships website](#) for scholarship application open dates and deadlines.

MEET WYL: ESCOFFIER ALUMNI STORY



“You have to be willing to invest in yourself. The connections you make with your chef instructors; they invest in you back” says Wyl L., Escoffier graduate.

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS (NRAEF)

Founded in 1987, the [National Restaurant Association](#) is a champion for people from all walks of life wanting to build career-ready skills in the restaurant and food services industry. It's given more than \$27 million in financial aid to youth and adults at all stages of their careers while helping to build a robust hospitality industry in America.

Each year, NRAEF awards more than \$1 million in scholarships available to individuals pursuing a post-secondary degree in the restaurant, foodservice, and hospitality industry.

- **PROSTART® FOR STUDENTS**
- **DIRECT NRAEF SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **STATE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

02

NRAEF SCHOLARSHIPS

PROSTART® FOR STUDENTS

ProStart® is a two-year high school program for students who want to get a jumpstart on their culinary careers. It provides real-life opportunities and builds practical skills. Students who earn their ProStart Certificate of Achievement may be eligible for scholarships and college credit at select culinary schools. Participants are also eligible to compete in the National ProStart Invitational® for additional scholarships (see Competition-Based Scholarships below for more information.)

DIRECT NRAEF SCHOLARSHIPS

The NRAEF awards general scholarships ranging from \$2,500 up to \$10,000 to select students. To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time or part-time at an accredited post-secondary institution pursuing a restaurant, food service, or hospitality-related degree.

Please check the [NRAEF FAQ website](#) for more information about scholarship application open dates and deadlines.

STATE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Each state has its own restaurant group, affiliated with the National Restaurant Association. Many of these state groups offer culinary school scholarships to in-state residents. Check with your state's chapter to see what scholarships you may be eligible for.



AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Culinary Federation (ACF) is a major force in the hospitality industry. It is credited with elevating the status of chefs in the United States from that of a lower-level service position to a well-regarded profession. ACF's high standards of training have earned the organization a prestigious reputation in the culinary arts world.

ACF's culinary school scholarships can help thousands of up-and-coming professionals in the hospitality industry get the best education possible. Scholarships of up to \$1,500 for students in certificate programs, and up to \$2,500 for students in post-secondary degree programs, are offered annually. Please check the [American Culinary Federation](#) website for scholarship application open dates and deadlines.



THE VEGETARIAN RESOURCE GROUP COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Vegetarian Resource Group is a nonprofit organization that promotes the vegetarian and vegan lifestyle through education and activism. Each year, this group offers one scholarship of \$10,000 and six scholarships of \$5,000 to high school seniors who have shown a commitment to a vegetarian or vegan diet.

This merit-based scholarship is a must-apply for students studying [plant-based culinary arts](#)! While the award is not exclusively for culinary students, multiple past winners have been vegan foodies with goals of opening their own plant-based restaurants.

Please check the [Vegetarian Resource Group](#) website for scholarship application open dates and

THE TROTTER PROJECT HOMARO CANTU SCHOLARSHIP

The Trotter Project is dedicated to advancing sustainable agriculture, promoting culinary education, and easing food insecurity in underserved neighborhoods. The organization has awarded nearly \$265,000 across 38 scholarships as of October 2021.

The [Charlie Trotter](#) Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship is an award of up to \$10,000 given to Culinary Arts and Baking or Pastry students attending any accredited college or university in the U.S., and The Homaro Cantu Scholarship is an award of up to \$10,000 that recognizes outstanding Hospitality Management students attending any accredited college or university in the U.S.

Students must submit their GPA, letters of recommendation, and a video highlighting their passion for the culinary arts and long term goals.

Please check the [Trotter Project website](#) for scholarship application open dates and deadlines.

02

“ It’s your job to work with [Escoffier Financial Aid] to find your opening into your future career. Hit the ground running and do your work. Apply for the scholarships and the grants, and do the paperwork on time.”*



AMBER GARDINER

ESCOFFIER CULINARY ARTS GRADUATE

**This information may not reflect every student's experience. Results and outcomes may be based on several factors such as geographical region or previous experience.*

03

NEED-BASED CULINARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Some of the following scholarships are third-party offerings. Open dates, deadlines, and application criteria may change. Always check the provider's website for updated information.

Need-based scholarships take a student's financial situation into account. They aim to help lower-income students gain access to education that may otherwise have been unavailable to them.

- SCHOOL-SPECIFIC CULINARY SCHOLARSHIPS
- FOOD DREAMS SCHOLARSHIP

03

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC CULINARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Many culinary schools offer scholarships to enrolled students who can demonstrate financial need. In fact, some of the need-based scholarships that are awarded to culinary students come directly from their schools, whether it's a dedicated culinary school or a community college program.

The Escoffier Scholarship Foundation (ESF) has a limited number of individual student awards up to \$1000 that will vary in number based off each respective term start date and funds available. The institution will review student eligibility during the financial aid process and notify the students that were selected.

Students must remain in good standing based on the conditions below to receive disbursements.

Applicants must have completed one (1) quarter at Auguste Escoffier school of Culinary Arts, passed all classes attempted, completed a FAFSA® application, be current on institutional payment plan, and have an unmet need after applying all grants, federal financial aid, and institutional scholarships.

“ I didn’t know when to look for scholarships or where to look for them. Escoffier had a lot of scholarships just within their program. That’s exactly what I needed to make sure I felt comfortable with getting this degree.”*



COLTON RAGLAND

ESCOFFIER CULINARY ARTS GRADUATE

**This information may not reflect every student's experience. Results and outcomes may be based on several factors such as geographical region or previous experience.*



FOOD DREAMS SCHOLARSHIP

Food Dreams is a New York-based nonprofit committed to helping under-resourced students access culinary education and mentorship.

The organization's scholarship is available for high school or international school graduates with financial need. Award amounts vary based on the school and program. After completing their education, recipients complete a year-long apprenticeship at one of Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's restaurants. Applications are accepted year round.

COMPETITION-BASED CULINARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Competition-based culinary scholarships are awarded to those who compete in and/or win food-based competitions. These may be awarded directly from the competition hosts, or students may earn scholarships directly from their school.

The scholarships in this category are eligible to be awarded together at Escoffier, but students cannot exceed the overall scholarship maximum of \$7,500 in a residential or online diploma program or \$15,000 in a residential or online Associate Degree program. Competitive Culinary Arts Scholarships are not limited to tuition but are eligible for any institutional expense. Students must enroll and start classes no later than twelve months following their high school graduation date.

- **ESCOFFIER CROWN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION: THE GINGERBREAD STRUCTURE SPECTACLE**
- **ESCOFFIER CROWN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION: THE SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN DISH-OFF**
- **NATIONAL PROSTART INVITATIONAL®**
- **FAMILY CAREER COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OF AMERICA**
- **SKILLSUSA**



ESCOFFIER CROWN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION: THE GINGERBREAD STRUCTURE SPECTACLE

In this Escoffier-hosted competition, contestants have the chance to compete for one of 30 scholarships totaling \$65,000. All registered participants will be awarded a \$500 scholarship toward an education at Escoffier.

Contestants will be asked to create and decorate a gingerbread structure and upload a series of photos of their work for consideration. The competition runs from early November through mid-December. Check the [competition page](#) for exact dates.

This contest is open to high school seniors or juniors who are interested in attending Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts (Residential or Distance Learning Programs). The contestant must be a minimum of 16 years of age and have proof of high school graduation before enrolling at Escoffier.

Scholarships are distributed as follows:

- 1st place – \$3,000 Scholarship (10 participants selected)
- 2nd place – \$2,000 Scholarship (10 participants selected)
- 3rd place – \$1,500 Scholarship (10 participants selected)



ESCOFFIER CROWN SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION: THE SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN DISH-OFF

In this Escoffier-hosted competition, contestants have the opportunity to compete virtually for one of 30 scholarships totaling \$65,000, toward an education at Escoffier. All registered participants will be awarded a \$500 scholarship toward an education at Escoffier.

Contestants will be asked to make a Spooktacular Halloween-inspired savory or sweet dish and upload a series of photos of their work for consideration. [The competition](#) runs throughout the month of October.

This contest is open to high school juniors and seniors who are interested in attending Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts (Residential or Distance Learning Programs). The contestant must be a minimum of 16 years of age and have proof of high school graduation before enrolling at Escoffier.

Scholarships are distributed as follows:

- 1st place – \$3,000 Scholarship (10 participants selected)
- 2nd place – \$2,000 Scholarship (10 participants selected)
- 3rd place – \$1,500 Scholarship (10 participants selected)



The following scholarships are third-party offerings. Open dates, deadlines, and application criteria may change. Always check the provider's website for updated information.

NATIONAL PROSTART INVITATIONAL®

The [National ProStart Invitational](#)® is hosted by the National Restaurant Association's ProStart® program. It includes both culinary arts and restaurant management competitions for high school students. The culinary arts competition requires teams to prepare a three-course meal in under an hour without running water or electricity. The restaurant management competition asks students to present their unique restaurant concept to the judges.

The top five teams from the culinary and management competitions are awarded generous educational scholarships to help further their careers in the restaurant and foodservice industry. In 2024, more than \$200,000 in scholarships was awarded to winning students.

FAMILY CAREER COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OF AMERICA

Family Career Community Leadership of America (formerly Future Homemakers of America) helps young people to build career- and family-focused leadership skills. This high school-based program holds [Students Taking Action with Recognition](#) (STAR) competitions which let students showcase their skills in culinary arts and baking. Local winners can go on to regional and then national events.

All FCCLA competition participants are [eligible for a \\$500 Escoffier scholarship](#). And winners on the local, regional, and national levels may be eligible for up to \$7,000 in scholarships, depending on the level of competition and their placement level.



SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA works with high school and college students, teachers, and industry leaders to ensure that the country maintains a skilled workforce. By partnering with over 650 businesses and trade associations, they bring skilled education out of the classroom and into the real world.

The [SkillsUSA Championships](#) are held in dozens of categories, including culinary arts and baking and pastry arts. All participants are [eligible for a \\$500 scholarship from Escoffier](#). First, second, and third place winners may also receive \$1,500 to \$7,000 in awards from Escoffier.

PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCE AND LOCATION-SPECIFIC CULINARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships are third-party offerings. Open dates, deadlines, and application criteria may change. Always check the provider's website for updated information.

Beyond the large-scale scholarships that are often open to anyone, there is a vast network of scholarships for more specific groups of students. These scholarships are available to a smaller pool of applicants, so they often involve less competition.

- VETERAN & MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS
- LOCATION-SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS
- DEMOGRAPHIC-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS
- EMPLOYER-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS



VETERAN & MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Escoffier also offers a [Student Veteran Scholarship](#), which may be stacked with the Institutional scholarship category. All students who apply and qualify for Veterans Benefits from a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for the Veterans Scholarship without completing the [Federal Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).

An Institutional scholarship encompasses multiple categories and has one scholarship application award. The scholarships in this category are eligible to be awarded together, but students cannot exceed the overall scholarship maximum of \$7,500 in a residential or online diploma program or \$15,000 in a residential or online Associate Degree program. Institutional scholarships are not limited to tuition but are eligible for any institutional expense.

Scholarship awards for online programs include up to \$1,000 for active military and veterans; children/spouses of veterans can be awarded up to \$500.

[Veterans and active duty military](#) can qualify for multiple types of scholarship and financial assistance. Through the Post-9/11 GI Bill®, active duty military or honorably discharged veterans are eligible for up to 100% of their tuition and fees, housing, and textbooks and supplies for up to 36 months.¹

Escoffier is a proud participant in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Learn more about the [Yellow Ribbon Program](#).

05

“ I worked with the Financial Aid Department, who helped me get some of the scholarships I qualify for because my dad is a disabled veteran.*



KADIE SARDO

BOULDER CULINARY ARTS GRADUATE

**This information may not reflect every student's experience. Results and outcomes may be based on several factors such as geographical region or previous experience.*



LOCATION-SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Some scholarships are open only to students who live in and attend school in a specific state, county, or city. The [Frans Hagen Scholarship](#), for example, is open to Washington, DC high school students, college students and current industry employees who are pursuing a culinary education.

Research scholarships for residents of your city, county, or state to see what's available. Your [state restaurant association](#) and local chamber of commerce may be good places to start.

DEMOGRAPHIC-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Other scholarships are open to people who meet certain demographic criteria. These are often designed to close a gap for historically underrepresented groups, like scholarships for Black or Latinx students through the [United Negro College Fund](#) or the [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#).

There are also some scholarships just for women, and others for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Scholarships may also exist for people in certain life circumstances, like [The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards](#) for women who provide the primary financial support for their families. Escoffier also offers a [Single Parent Grant](#) (residential programs only).



EMPLOYER-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Some employers have their own internal scholarship programs. If you work in a restaurant or other food-service business, ask your managers if there's a scholarship program that you can apply for.

WORK & LEARN EDUCATION PARTNER SCHOLARSHIP

The Work & Learn Education Partner Scholarship is designed to support student-employees of approved Work & Learn employers who are passionate about culinary arts and are enrolled at Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts, either online or in person.

This tiered scholarship ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,250, depending on an approved Work & Learn employer's tuition assistance program. The \$1,000 scholarship tier is available to students whose employer contributes \$0 - \$1,999 in tuition assistance. For employer contributions of \$2,000 - \$5,250, the scholarship will match the amount provided from the employer. For example, if a student receives \$2,500 from their employer in education benefits, they will be eligible to receive a \$2,500 scholarship from Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts, therefore resulting in a total benefit of \$5,000 to the student.

This scholarship is distributed over the entire duration of the program and is contingent on certain requirements being met such as valid proof of qualified employment and an approved tuition funding plan completed with our Financial Aid team. For more information and to check an employer's Work & Learn partner status, contact Admissions at Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts at 877-452-5489 or admissionsonlineboulder@escoffier.edu.

[View full scholarship requirements.](#)



OTHER FORMS OF FINANCIAL AID

GRANTS

Grants are need based aid that can come from Federal or State agencies. The [Federal Pell Grant](#) is the most well-known and widely-used grant program. Students apply for the Pell Grant by filling out the FAFSA. Amounts vary based on factors like the school's cost of attendance and the Student Aid Index. The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is \$7,395 for the 2025–26 award year (July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026).

STUDENT LOANS

Student loans can provide the up-front funding that students need to [finance their education](#). After completing their programs, students [repay the loans](#) over several years.

The federal government is the largest provider of student loans. They are available to the majority of postsecondary school students, and often have modest interest rates.

Students can work on securing student loans and scholarships at the same time. The more scholarship money you receive, the less you may have to borrow!



NOW IT'S UP TO YOU!

Whatever your dreams are for the future, don't let finances get in the way.

There are so many financial support options for those who apply and qualify, and so many opportunities for people willing to take that leap and get the education they need to be successful.

Escoffier's financial aid advisors are here to [answer your financing questions](#) and assist you to craft a financial plan that makes sense for your specific situation. We're here to work with you to help find the right path to your career in the culinary arts. Reach out to us to discuss your options!

JOIN THE NEWEST GENERATION OF CULINARY TALENT

In November 2024, Escoffier celebrated graduating classes with more than 4,092 students completing the online or campus-based culinary diploma and degree programs.

Join this unstoppable group of culinarians who are following their calling....and it all starts with getting a financial plan in place for your future.

[Contact us](#) today to take the next step.



ONLINE PROGRAMS

ADMISSIONS:

1-877-452-5489

admissionsonlineboulder@escoffier.edu

FINANCIAL AID:

1-877-452-5489 Option 1

financialaidonlineboulder@escoffier.edu

CAREER SERVICES:

1-855-224-0453

careerservices@escoffier.edu

BOULDER, CO CAMPUS

ADMISSIONS:

1-877-249-0305

303-494-7988

admissionsboulder@escoffier.edu

FINANCIAL AID:

boulderresfinancialaid@escoffier.edu

720-204-3486

CAREER SERVICES:

Kate Sweasy

720-457-4214

ksweasy@escoffier.edu

637 South Broadway, Suite H

Boulder, CO 80305

AUSTIN, TX CAMPUS

ADMISSIONS:

1-833-443-0618

admissionsaustin@escoffier.edu

FINANCIAL AID:

512-451-5743

austinfinancialaid@escoffier.edu

CAREER SERVICES:

Marc Doherty

512-381-7252

mdoherty@staff.escoffier.edu

6020-B Dillard Circle

Austin, TX 78752

For additional resources, visit www.escoffier.edu.

