

About

The Red Pine Scholarship is seeking its next class of students from low- to middle-income families in Massachusetts who have demonstrated academic excellence and are planning to attend competitive colleges as freshmen in the fall of 2017. This program is designed to support students through tuition assistance, mentoring, and other flexible financial supports. The Red Pine Scholarship program is dedicated to making college affordable for Massachusetts families and helping students reach their full potential. The program is funded by an anonymous donor and administered by The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI).

Program Components

- Scholarship:* Four-year, renewable scholarship to a competitive four-year college in the U.S. Scholarships will range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 annually. Award size is based on unmet financial need.
- Advising:* Each student is paired with an adult mentor to provide advice and assistance navigating the college experience.
- Flexible Funds:* Additional funds available to students to support enriching experiences that help students achieve their academic goals or to assist with expenses related to unforeseen circumstances.

Eligibility Checklist

Residency

- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (eligible to receive federal financial aid – have completed FAFSA)
- Permanent resident of Massachusetts

Financial circumstances

- Adjusted gross family income (AGI) of \$80,000 or less (as shown on 2015 federal tax returns)
- Substantial unmet need (at least \$5,000) as determined by college financial aid award letter (you will likely not know this at time of application)

Academic

- Senior or recent graduate of accredited high school in Massachusetts
- Enrolling as a full-time freshman at a competitive four-year college in the U.S. in fall 2017 to pursue a Bachelor's degree
- Strong academic record (enrolled in a demanding, college-prep course of study)

Personal

- Involved in a balance of community, school, and work activities
- Ability to articulate goals and future plans

Process / Timeline

February 15, 2017 by 5:00 pm Application deadline

Late March, Early April: Semi-finalist interviews

April: Students are selected and TPI works with college financial aid offices to determine unmet need and scholarship amounts
(Students may submit financial aid award letters from all schools they are considering. Red Pine Scholarship amounts will be determined for each school, allowing recipients to use the information to help them make their final school choice. If a student's unmet need does not exceed \$5,000, unfortunately they will not be selected as a recipient.)

May: Red Pine Scholarship recipients finalized

August: Fall semester tuition checks mailed to schools

Instructions

Complete applications are due **February 15, 2017 by 5:00 PM**. Only complete applications submitted online will be reviewed. Please follow instructions carefully. Applicants' ability to follow instruction will weigh into award decisions.

To access the application, click here: <https://www.grantinterface.com/tpischolarship/Common/LogOn.aspx>

This scholarship application process may seem daunting, but with the potential to receive up to \$80,000 in college tuition and other benefits, the rewards are well worth the diligent work required to complete the application.

1. Prior to completing the application, please be sure you meet all **eligibility requirements** (academic and financial). Ineligible applications will not be reviewed.
2. **Review Application:** Please review the questions and required attachments in advance to be sure you have access to all the information you will need to complete the application. You can access the full application by clicking on the "Application Packet" button at the top right-hand corner of the application page (link above).
3. **Required Documents:** Instructions on how to submit required attachments are included in the online application (options include scanning & uploading the documents or using a fax-to-file feature).
4. **Recommendations:** Make sure you give your recommenders ample time to complete the recommendations. Your two recommenders must upload their recommendation forms and letters to your online application. Instructions on how to do this are included in the application. Be sure you and your recommenders understand how to upload their letters. Only applications with two completed recommendations will be reviewed.
5. If you have **questions**, contact us at redpine@tpi.org.

Required Documents

The following materials are required for the scholarship committee to evaluate each student. Only complete applications submitted online will be considered. Required documents #2-4 can be downloaded at: <http://www.tpi.org/scholarship/red-pine-scholarship>. A checklist of all required documents can also be found here.

1. **Online Application Form**
2. **Extracurricular & Community Activities Form**
3. **Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Form** (to be filled out by a teacher or guidance counselor)
4. **General Recommendation Form** (to be filled out by a teacher, work supervisor, community leader, coach, or any other non-family member who knows you well)
5. Essays – One long and two short. Essay questions are located within the online application form.
6. Official high school transcript
7. Transcript Information from School Official (Section 1 of Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Form)
8. Pages 1 and 2 of parent(s)' 2015 ~~1099~~ **IRS 1040 tax forms**
9. Complete **Student Aid Report (SAR) from FAFSA**. This document will be approximately five pages long. You must submit the ENTIRE document.
 - *File your FAFSA as early as possible online. Your Expected Family Contribution is the amount, determined by the federal government, that you and your family should be able to contribute to your college education annually. Schools use this figure and other financial information to determine what kind of award and loan amounts you will receive. The FAFSA website is www.fafsa.ed.gov.*