



**Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina / Optum® Infusion Pharmacy
Scholarships for the 2024-25 Academic Year**

Awards: \$500 to \$3,000

At least one scholarship will be awarded to an applicant pursuing education in a health related field.

Application Submission Deadline: May 15, 2024

Candidates: Scholarships are intended for persons affected by a bleeding disorder*, including anyone who

- ➔ has been diagnosed with a bleeding disorder; **or**
- ➔ is a caregiver of a child or adult affected by a bleeding disorder; **or**
- ➔ has a sibling or parent in the same household affected by a bleeding disorder.

*For the purpose of this scholarship application, the term “bleeding disorder” is limited to clotting factor deficiency disorders, specifically: hemophilia A (factor VIII), B (factor IX), and C (factor XI), von Willebrand Disease, factor V/parahemophilia**, factor VII, factor X, and factor XIII deficiencies. (**Factor V Leiden is a clotting disorder and is not eligible). Exceptions for bleeding disorders that result from other rare diseases may be considered by the scholarship committee on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants must be seeking education from an accredited college, university, or certified training program based in the United States. At least one award will be made to an applicant pursuing education in a health related field.

Awards are primarily merit based, but *financial need will be considered as well.* The applicant is strongly encouraged to include a copy of their current FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or other statement of need with their application package. In the absence of a statement of need, the scholarship review committee will assume that the applicant does not wish to have their financial situation considered in the award process.

All personal information will be treated as completely confidential. The Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina (BDFNC) and Optum Infusion Pharmacy will never divulge the applicant’s name, address, financial or health-related information to any other organization, company or individual without their express permission. Scholarship winners may be asked (though not required) to submit a photograph and sign a release form for publicity purposes.

This scholarship program is funded by Optum Infusion Pharmacy and administered by the Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina. Applicants are not required to be—nor is any preference given to—residents of North Carolina.

To obtain an additional application, email hbdp@optum.com, or visit optum.com/hemophilia or bleedingdisordersnc.org/scholarships

Submit completed application, essay, two (2) letters of recommendation, transcript(s), physician’s diagnosis statement, and FAFSA (or other statement of financial need) to:

**BDFNC/Optum Scholarship Committee
Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina
260 Town Hall Drive, Suite A
Morrisville, NC 27560**

*email: scholarships@bleedingdisordersnc.org
fax: 919-319-0016*

**Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina / Optum® Infusion Pharmacy
Scholarships for the 2024-25 Academic Year**

Application Form

page 1

 PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

NAME: (LAST) _____ (FIRST) _____ (MI) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

List all persons living in your household (including yourself):

Name	Age	Relationship	Bleeding Disorder?	Type of Bleeding Disorder
		<i>self</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

Name, address and phone number of your hematologist(s) or treatment center:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____



**Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina / Optum® Infusion Pharmacy
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Application Form

page 2

EDUCATION:

High School:

NAME: _____

CITY, STATE: _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION OR GED: _____

College: Accepted Currently attending Graduated

NAME: _____ DEGREE: _____

MAJOR/CONCENTRATION: _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION: _____

Graduate or Professional School: Accepted Currently attending

NAME: _____ DEGREE: _____

MAJOR/CONCENTRATION: _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION: _____

Anticipated Career: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED MATERIALS to be included with this application:

- ✓ **Essay:** Please submit a one- to two-page essay (typed or printed) describing your occupational goals and objectives in life, and how your—or your family’s—experience with a bleeding disorder has affected your choices.
- ✓ **Two (2) letters of recommendation.**
- ✓ **High school and/or college transcripts.**
- ✓ **A physician’s letter confirming the affected family member’s bleeding disorder diagnosis.**
- ✓ **A statement describing your current financial need** – either a copy of your current FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or an equivalent statement of financial need.

SUBMIT ALL MATERIALS BY MAY 15, 2024 TO:

BDFNC/Optum Scholarship Committee
Bleeding Disorders Foundation of NC
260 Town Hall Drive, Suite A
Morrisville, NC 27560

email: scholarships@bleedingdisordersnc.org
fax: 919-319-0016



Tips for Preparing and Submitting Your Scholarship Application

The Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina (BDFNC) administers two scholarship programs: the BDFNC/Optum Infusion Pharmacy Scholarship, and the BDFNC/George D. McCoy Scholarship. The application process for each program is identical. In an effort to provide clarity and avoid errors and omissions, the Scholarship Committee offers the following tips for preparing an effective application package.

Start Early. You will need time to:

- Complete the simple two-page application form;
- Write a brief essay (1-2 pages);
- Get letters of recommendation from two people;
- Get a doctor's certification;
- Get a current school transcript;
- Get a completed FAFSA.

Follow instructions. *Really.*

- In 2023 at least one in three applicants left something missing from their initial submission. Applications that are missing a required component will not be evaluated. BDFNC cannot be responsible for following up with you if your application is incomplete.
- Get all of your documents together in one place before putting them in an envelope or submitting by email as attachments. You should have at least seven different documents: the completed application form, your essay, two (2) letters of recommendation (unless submitted directly to BDFNC), doctor's certification, at least one current transcript, and your financial statement.

Application Form: Be sure to sign the form in the space indicated. If you are completing the form electronically, the free Adobe Acrobat Reader will let you apply an electronic signature. The Preview app on an Apple Mac computer has a similar electronic signature feature. Your signature affirms that the information you have provided is truthful and accurate to the best of your knowledge. *Unsigned applications will not be accepted.*

Essay: Again, *follow instructions.*

- Describe your occupational goals and objectives in life, and how your (or your family's) experience with a bleeding disorder has affected your choices. You may be able to reuse an essay you wrote for a different purpose, but just be sure it touches on the requested topics.
- Given that BDFNC scholarships are for students who are affected by a bleeding disorder, it is safe to assume that the review committee will be familiar with hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, and bleeding disorders in general.

Letters of Recommendation: *Choose your references wisely.*

- Teachers, employers and supervisors are usually good choices. Teachers in particular are most likely to have experience writing effective letters of recommendation for higher education admission and scholarship applicants.



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- A reference from someone who is unrelated to you will often carry more weight than a letter from a family member.
- A recent recommendation – one dated within the current academic year – is preferable to one reused from a prior year.
- Give your reference at least two weeks to prepare a letter.
- While your reference may be comfortable giving you a letter to submit with your application, they may prefer to send it directly to BDFNC by email or US Mail. Mailing instructions are printed on the application form.
- Two letters are required, but you may submit more if you like.

Doctor's Certification: This should be a brief letter from a doctor treating your (or your family member's) bleeding disorder. It should list the specific bleeding disorder diagnosis, including severity, if applicable. As with letters of recommendation, give the doctor at least two weeks to prepare the letter.

Transcript(s): Send a current transcript -- one that shows the courses in which you are currently enrolled, in addition to those that have been completed. An unofficial transcript (such as a copy you downloaded from your school's website) is sufficient. If you are already enrolled in college but have only one or two semesters of completed courses on your transcript, then it would be prudent to submit your high school transcript in addition to your college transcript.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA, also known as the Student Aid Report):

- Remember that BDFNC scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit *and* need. Many families are reluctant to disclose their financial affairs, but this is a necessary part of the financial aid process.
- The FAFSA is available not only to students attending undergraduate college, but graduate and professional school, and community college as well.
- Be sure to submit a *completed* (processed) FAFSA. A completed FAFSA will show the Student Aid Index (SIA), a standardized measure of what you and your family should be able to pay toward your education. The SIA is usually printed near the beginning of the FAFSA report, and a copy of that single page will be sufficient for the BDFNC review process.
- The SIA or Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) may also be printed on other official documents, such a college aid offer sheet. This too will be sufficient.
- You may submit an additional personal statement about your finances if you think that the FAFSA does not accurately reflect your situation. Please be specific about your ability to pay for your education. To simply say that "college is expensive" is not enough.
- Optional, but helpful to the review committee, is a statement from your college showing the costs of attending.