

**ASHFIELD CITIZEN SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY FUND  
COMBINED SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026**

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL FOR ASHFIELD RESIDENTS\*

This Application Form is a new Combined Application for the three different scholarships the Ashfield Citizen Scholarship and Community Fund awards each year. **Please read the descriptions below, check the box next to each scholarship you wish to apply for and complete all required sections below.** You may apply to as many scholarships as you qualify for, there is no penalty to applying to more than one.

- Fall Festival Scholarship:** *(Complete Sections 1-3)*
  - Awards are granted based on financial need.
  - *Note:* Applicants should anticipate that, if awarded this scholarship, they will be asked to volunteer at an upcoming Fall Festival.
  
- Van Valkenburg Scholarship:** *(Complete Sections 1-5)*

Established under the will of Leo Van Valkenburg. A longtime Ashfield resident and farmer, he was a dedicated supporter of education and served on the Sanderson Academy School Committee for two terms.

  - Awards are competitive and applications are evaluated by the Committee on each of the following criteria: financial need, academic standing, character and integrity, extra-curricular activities, and demonstrated leadership.
  - Awards a minimum \$1,000 scholarship, to be applied to tuition only.
  - **Applications with tuition bills under \$1,000 cannot be accepted.**
  
- Peter Marsters Memorial Scholarship:** *(Complete Sections 1-3, AND SECTION 6)*
  - An endowed scholarship that focuses on supporting Ashfield residents with their studies in fields related to crafts, fine arts, engineering, mechanical work, and/or environmental sustainability.

**The completed application form must be postmarked by April 3, 2026, and mailed to:**

Ashfield Citizen Scholarship & Community Fund, Inc.  
P.O. Box 120, Ashfield, MA 01330-0120

You will be notified of the decision on your application by June 30. If you wish to verify that the Committee received your application or letter of recommendation, please email [information@ashfieldscholarships.org](mailto:information@ashfieldscholarships.org).

**INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**

**Applicant's signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*[Application starts on next page]*

\* A resident is defined as any citizen physically residing in the Town of Ashfield for at least one year prior to the date of application, or any dependent student, under the age of 25, of an Ashfield resident.

**Scholarship Application Checklist:**

Section	Fall Festival	Van Valkenburg	Marsters
1. General Information	<input type="checkbox"/> (required by all scholarships)		
2. Letter of Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> (required by all scholarships)		
3. Financial Need	<input type="checkbox"/> (required by all scholarships)		
4. Transcript	(Not required)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Not required)
5. Van Valkenburg Essays	(Not required)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Not required)
6. Marsters Essay	(Not required)	(Not required)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SECTION 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION** (Required for all scholarships)

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Pronouns \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Schools, Colleges, Institutions or Programs of Learning \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please note acceptance/enrollment status and your preferred choice:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2 - LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** (Required for all scholarships)

It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the application is **COMPLETE** with a letter of recommendation.

- Please include a letter of recommendation, **signed and dated** (after 8/1/25), from non-family, that comments on your personal character and integrity
- The letter must be postmarked or emailed **by April 3, 2026**. It can either, (a) be enclosed with this application, (b) sent by the person making the recommendation via email to [information@ashfieldscholarships.org](mailto:information@ashfieldscholarships.org) or (c) mailed to us at “Ashfield Citizen Scholarship & Community Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 120, Ashfield, MA, 01330-0120”.

**APPLICATIONS WITHOUT A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**

*[Application continues on next page]*

**SECTION 3 - FINANCIAL NEED** *(Required for all scholarships)*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR (2026-2027)

You must complete either A ***OR*** B

A. If you have filed a FAFSA, please enter your SAI \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***OR***

B. If you are **NOT** a dependent: Your 2025 adjusted gross income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(from Form 1040 or Form 1040A)*

If you **ARE** a dependent: Family's 2025 adjusted gross income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(from Form 1040 or Form 1040A)*

(1) Parent/Guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or email: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Parent/Guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or email: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Optional)* I authorize members of the Scholarship Committee to communicate with my parent(s) or guardian(s) regarding scholarship-related matters if needed.

C. *(Required for all applicants)*

EXPECTED EXPENSES

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Annual Tuition:	\$ _____	Applicant contribution:	\$ _____
		Family contribution (incl. SAI):	\$ _____
Activity fees:	\$ _____	Secured scholarships/loans:	\$ _____
Room & Board:	\$ _____		\$ _____
Other expense:	\$ _____		\$ _____
<i>(e.g., travel)</i>			
(specify)	\$ _____		\$ _____
(specify)	\$ _____		\$ _____
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>Funds Available Total:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

*[Application continues on next page]*

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

*Typed responses are also accepted; applicants may include separate pages in place of handwritten responses.*

Current employment/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any family or household members who have an effect on your financial need, and why:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell the committee why you should be considered for this scholarship:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Justify your financial need. Please explain any financial hardship, sources of funding, such as family, friends, savings, earnings, other scholarships, etc. and expected tuition expenses and other related expenses.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

END OF FALL FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.

TO APPLY FOR THE VAN VALKENBURG SCHOLARSHIP, COMPLETE SECTIONS 4 & 5.

TO APPLY TO THE PETER MARSTERS SCHOLARSHIP, COMPLETE SECTION 6.

*[Van Valkenburg Scholarship Application continues on next page]*

*[Peter Marsters Scholarship Application continues on Page 7]*





