

Heritage Fund

Considerations for Scholarship Criteria

Scholarship criteria should be well-defined to ensure that the wishes of the donor are understood. In establishing the scholarship criteria, the donor needs to consider what kind of student he/she wants to receive the scholarship. Below are some points to consider in setting criteria.

Who will be eligible to receive this scholarship?

- Graduating high school seniors preparing to attend a post-secondary education? Just the four public high schools or also private high schools?
- Students already enrolled in a post-secondary institution?
- Both graduating high school seniors and current college students?
- Residents of Bartholomew County. (This includes students who attend high schools outside of Bartholomew County and home-schooled students, graduating seniors, sophomores, juniors and seniors in college and non-traditional students.)
- Current residents or students who were Bartholomew County residents at a specific time.

Other criteria often used to define a scholarship:

- A specific major or area of study.
- Participation in a specific organization, school activity, community service or sport.
- Attendance at a specific college, university, or other post-secondary institution.

Other factors to consider:

- Is this scholarship to be awarded for the student's accomplishments and achievements (a merit-based scholarship) or for the financial need of the student (need-based scholarship)?
- Will the scholarship be for one year of study or will it be renewable for four years of study. May recipients reapply?
- Is there a minimum GPA required to apply/reapply? Is there a minimum GPA required for the scholarship to be renewed?
- Does the student need to be a full-time student at a post-secondary institution? (A full-time student takes at least 12 credit hours per semester.)
- Does the student need to be working toward a specific degree or accreditation, i.e. associate's degree, bachelor's degree or graduate school degree?
- Will this scholarship pay for study at a vocational/technical school?
- Is there a family income limit to be considered for this scholarship?
- As the fund grows, should one large scholarship be awarded or should several smaller scholarships be given if there are qualified recipients? What should be the minimum amount awarded?