



Money Smart Wisconsin

2024 Scholarship Application

Deadline: March 8, 2024

In support of **Money Smart Wisconsin (April 6 - 13, 2024)**, the [Wisconsin Coalition on Student Debt](#) and its partner organizations are sponsoring a Money Smart 2024 Scholarship Contest. Wisconsin's graduating high school seniors are encouraged to answer this year's Money Smart Question for a chance to win one of several scholarships to be given as a \$1,000 Edvest account.

Student loan debt in Wisconsin for students who graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2023 averaged \$31,550. About two-thirds of all college students take out loans to pay for their educational costs.

We want to hear your plan to pay for college, how the cost of college and potential student debt you may incur will affect your career choices, and what impact this scholarship may have for you.

THE 2024 ESSAY – use each bullet below to form your essay.

- Describe your plan to pay for college. Include a summary of the various costs (tuition, housing & food/meal plan, textbooks, computer, fees, transportation, other cost of attendance expenses).
Tip: To help estimate expenses, look for your intended school at the US Department of Education website (<https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>) or search the name of your school + net price calculator.
- Once you've summarized the estimated cost explain how you plan to pay for college.
 - Discuss the various resources (i.e., grants, scholarships, student aid, jobs, financial support from family) you will need to attend and complete a degree at your chosen college.
 - Did you complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) FAFSA?
 - If you plan to take out educational loans, how will you minimize and/or manage your student loan debt?
 - How does your potential student loan debt compare to the potential salary in your chosen field?
- Finally, describe your understanding of the cost of college and educational debt.
 - How will you manage any student debt in relation to your expected future salary?
 - How will it impact your life over the next few years?
 - Include ideas on how you plan to manage your money, school and/or work responsibilities and ultimately meet your college and career goals.

**Thank You To Our
Money Smart
[Scholarship Sponsors](#)**

Go to <https://debtsmarts.org/essay-contest>
to download the application!

GUIDELINES

Candidate Must:

- Be a resident of Wisconsin, graduating high school senior and plan to attend a Wisconsin college or university.
- Student or parent/guardian must have a valid SSN.
- Demonstrate key money management knowledge (budgeting, investing, use of credit, etc.).

To Apply:

- Essay, up to 1500 words, must be typed and double spaced.
- The essay must be concise and written by the student submitting the essay.
- The Money Smart Scholarship Application must be signed by the student and a parent/guardian and attached to the essay.
- The essay and application should be emailed as a PDF or scanned attachment to: <mailto:MoneySmart@debtsmarts.org>

Important Information:

Direct questions about this Money Smart Scholarship Contest to the above email and the attention of **Cheryl Rapp**.

All essays become the property of the WI Coalition on Student Debt and may be used by members to promote financial literacy.

Award recipients only, **will** be contacted between April 6 - 13, 2024.

Winners' names **will** be shared with their high school for possible announcement at School Award Ceremonies.

All submissions must be *received* before midnight March 8, 2024.



Money Smart Wisconsin 2024 Scholarship APPLICATION

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION - (Please print when completing information below)

STUDENT NAME: _____ AGE: ____ GRADE: _____

HIGH SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____ COUNTY: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL (WILL BE USED TO CONTACT WINNER): _____

COLLEGE YOU PLAN TO ATTEND IN FALL 2024: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

HAVE YOU APPLIED AT THIS COLLEGE?: Yes ☐ No ☐ HAVE YOU BEEN ACCEPTED?: Yes ☐ No ☐

ARE YOU A FIRST GENERATION STUDENT?: Yes ☐ No ☐

I, _____, vouch that the attached essay
(PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME - *please print*)

is fully and solely the work of my child, _____.
(STUDENT NAME - *please print*)

And I give permission for my child to participate in the activities of Money Smart Wisconsin 2024, including consent to release photos and personal information for the media and promotional purposes.

(PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

(STUDENT SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

Complete this form, include **all** information requested, sign the form where indicated, be sure to attach it to the front of your essay and email it all to MoneySmart@debtsmarts.org
Visit <https://debtsmarts.org/essay-contest> for more information.