



## Scholarship and Mentoring Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Is there a minimum age requirement?**
  - Applicants must be at least 18 years of age
- **Is this scholarship for first-time college students, or returning/transfer students?**
  - Both first-time and returning/transfer students may apply. Applicants must be accepted and enrolled at their primary academic institution for the upcoming fall semester.
- **How do applicants demonstrate financial need?**
  - Applicants are asked to submit the “Estimated Family Contribution” (EFC) summary page from the FAFSA form. The EFC is one of the factors that is considered when interviewing applicants for the program. If you are worried that your EFC score is too high or if you know you are not Pell Grant eligible, but you still wish to apply for the Scholarship and Mentoring Program, please tell us more about your financial need in the short-answer questions on the application so that we can better understand your circumstances.
- **Why do applicants need to live in an East Valley community?**
  - Positive Paths was founded to support women in the East Valley to help them achieve their career goals and in turn, give back to those communities. The majority of our donors and supporters live and work in East Valley communities.
  - A requirement of the program is that our recipients continuously live in an East Valley community while in the program (for up to 8 semesters).
  - For the purposes of this program the East Valley consists of Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Queen Creek, San Tan Valley, Apache Junction, and unincorporated areas within these community boundaries.
- **What institutions qualify for the scholarship and mentoring program?**
  - Positive Paths currently only funds recipients attending Arizona public institutions such as the Maricopa Community Colleges, Central Arizona College, East Valley Institute of Technology, and the in-state public universities with programs in the Phoenix area.
- **Do I need to attend school full-time?**
  - Recipients may plan to attend school full-time or part-time (minimum 6 credit hours each semester), but if selected for an award, must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Positive Paths Scholarship Committee that they have a viable plan for certificate or degree completion.
- **When will I hear back about the status of my scholarship application? How does the process work?**
  - The application process runs from March-May each spring for the upcoming fall semester. Once the application period has closed in mid-May, the Scholarship Committee will review applications. You may be contacted if more information or clarification is needed on your application.
  - Applicants that are selected for an interview will be notified in early June. Those not selected for an interview will also be notified. Interviews are held in June and applicants that are selected for an award will be notified by the end of June.

- **When does the Scholarship and Mentoring Program start and how long does it last?**
  - For new recipients, the Scholarship and Mentoring Program begins in the fall semester. Once you are notified that you are invited to join the program, the information you have provided about your program of study and what qualities you look for in a mentor will be reviewed and in July-August, a professional mentor will be selected for you. Mentors are asked to reach out to their mentee initially to fill out a contact information form and make introductions.
  - In September of each year, a Welcome and Kick-off event is held where our group of women/scholars are able to meet their mentor, each other, and members of the Board of Directors.
  - Positive Paths recipients are able to continue in the Scholarship and Mentoring Program for up to 8 semesters as long as they continue to meet the requirements. They do not need to reapply each year, but they must continue to provide documentation of grades and class schedules towards their degree goal, and they must continue to meet with their mentor.
  
- **How is the scholarship awarded to me?**
  - Scholarship awards are sent directly to the recipient's academic institution and will be applied to their financial aid account. Recipients can use the financial award to offset costs associated with their education including tuition, fees, books, gas, childcare, and other expenses. Scholarship amounts may vary based on individual needs, up to \$1,000 per semester, and can be given for a maximum of eight semesters, for women who meet the renewal criteria.
  
- **Who are the mentors and how often would you meet with your mentor?**
  - Positive Paths will find a professional in the community to become your mentor. We will ask you to identify the characteristics you want in a mentor. We require that the scholars and their mentors meet (via phone, text, in-person, or virtually) on at least a monthly basis. The mentoring component of the program will help you develop personally and professionally.
  
- **Whom can I contact if I have questions about requirements or how to fill out the application?**
  - Please call our office at (480) 788-0615, or email [info@positivepathsaz.org](mailto:info@positivepathsaz.org).

### **Submission of Materials**

**Submit the online application form by the deadline posted on the website.** The online application form is located here: <https://positivepathsaz.org/programs/#scholarship>. Before starting the application, carefully read through the list of items needed for a complete application including the required uploads:

1. All items on the application form must be completed in order for a woman to be considered.
2. Copy of completed FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) page to demonstrate financial need.
3. Copies of educational transcripts from any previous colleges or universities. If you have not attended a college or university, please include a copy of your high school transcripts. These can be unofficial copies.

### **Important Information**

- Falsification of information or submission of a late or incomplete application disqualifies the applicant.
- Submission of a completed application does not guarantee an award.
- All applications will remain confidential and become the property of Positive Paths.
- Applicants will be asked to participate in an interview as part of the selection process.
- Individuals selected for a scholarship will be paired with a mentor, a professional in the community who will encourage them in their education and career efforts.
- Positive Paths board members and employees are not eligible for this scholarship program.