

First Generation Initiative (FGI) Scholarship Application

FGI Mission

The First Generation Initiative (FGI) Scholarship Program at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is dedicated to providing vital academic and comprehensive financial support to first-generation college students who originate from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Grounded in our Lasallian values, the FGI program embodies a commitment to fostering individual growth, success, and empowerment.

Definition of First-Generation College Student at SMUMN

A Saint Mary's University of Minnesota student is considered a first-generation student if neither parent / guardian completed a four-year college degree.

FGI Scholarship Coverage

The First Generation Scholarship at Saint Mary's Univ. of MN is a full ride scholarship that includes the following:

1. Saint Mary's admission deposit
2. Full tuition for four years, 8 semesters at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
3. Basic room and board for four years
4. Laptop - for the four years at SMUMN
5. Graduation fee

Application Instructions

The following must be completed before January 31, 2025:

Step 1: Complete Saint Mary's University of Minnesota's application
[Winona, Undergraduate Application](https://smumn.edu/apply) (smumn.edu/apply)

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA
Be sure to enter Saint Mary's school code, 002380

Step 3: Turn in the FGI Application (Application Form, Essay, and Recommendation)
Completed applications can be sent digitally to fgi@smumn.edu

-OR-

Completed applications can be mailed to:
FGI Scholarship Application
Campus Box 44
700 Terrace Heights
Winona, MN 55987

Application Deadline: January 31, 2025

Contact Information:

Marisol Martinez
Director of First Generation Initiative
mmartine@smumn.edu
507-457-1902

First Generation Initiative (FGI) Scholarship Application

Please fill out the following information.

Student Information

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____ Apt # (Optional): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

High School Attending: _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian #1

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Highest Level of Education: _____

Parent/Guardian #2

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Highest Level of Education: _____

A completed application will include an essay and a letter of recommendation.

FGI Scholarship Essay

Directions

Write an essay of 600-800 words addressing the prompt below.

Keep the following in mind as you write your essay:

1. Be sure to address all questions.
2. Give specific examples.
3. Show, don't tell. Stories speak to the heart and engage the mind of your readers.
4. Let your passion, determination, and perseverance shine in your examples and stories.
5. Examples of hardships you have experienced and how you have overcome them are indicative of your determination to succeed.

The use of AI generated essay's is prohibited and will result in disqualification.

FGI Scholarship Essay Prompt:

Describe yourself as a new student at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

What personal characteristics will you bring and contribute to the Saint Mary's community?

How have past experiences helped shape who you are (family, culture, faith, church, school, community, etc.)?

What do you want to achieve during your time at Saint Mary's?

FGI Letter of Recommendation

Please collect at least 1 letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or employer. Letters of recommendation can be attached to student application, or can be sent directly to fgi@smumn.edu.

The letter of recommendation should address the following:

- How do you know the scholarship applicant?
- What sets the scholarship applicant apart from other students their age?
- What is the scholarship applicant's aptitude for success?
- When faced with hardship, how does the scholarship applicant respond?
- What are the greatest strengths of the scholarship applicant? Opportunities for growth?