



What is the Insuring Rural Communities Scholarship?

The Insuring Rural Communities: Sustainable Scholarship Initiative is a renewable scholarship awarded to residents of eligible rural communities in Missouri and Illinois. It is a **need-based** award of up to \$5,000 per academic year and is renewable through graduation or a maximum of 10 semesters, provided the student continues to meet eligibility and selection criteria.

The Insuring Rural Communities Scholarship will be awarded to students who have been permanent residents for at least two years in a county located outside a metropolitan area. Eligible rural counties in Missouri and Illinois are listed at the following link: http://bit.ly/Counties_IRC

To be eligible to be considered for this scholarship you must:

- Plan to enroll in a certificate program, or an associate's or bachelor's degree-granting program at an accredited, nonprofit college or university;
- Be pursuing a course of study in information technology, healthcare, or risk management;
- Have earned a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average while in high school or have completed a GED (high school equivalency);
- Complete and submit the application between February 1st and May 15th by visiting <https://stlouisgraduates.academicworks.com/opportunities/3432>.

Eligible, completed applications will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrate significant financial need, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or similar need calculations*;
- Prior performance indicates academic match, demonstrating students' potential to succeed in their chosen program of study;
- Display good character through a pattern of responsible behavior, involvement, honesty, and ability to articulate and pursue a plan;
- Demonstrate commitment to rural community, providing explanation of how their chosen academic program will benefit themselves, their families, and their communities.

To be considered, completed applications and all required supporting documents must be submitted by May 15. Awards will be announced in early July.

**If you are unable to file a FAFSA for any reason, please contact The Scholarship Foundation for guidance on information that may be submitted as a substitute.*

For more information visit www.sfstl.org or call (314) 725-7990.