

2026 Parent and Student Handbook

Scholarship Program

American Association of Blacks in Energy
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FLORIDA CHAPTER 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Purpose

Through the work of various AABE National Scholarship Committee members, Chapter Presidents, Regional Directors, Location Scholarship Committees, and many AABE volunteers nationwide, the AABE Scholarship Program is advertised, and applications are solicited from eligible candidates nationwide.

Though founded to address funding inequities in education resources for African Americans, AABE-administered scholarships are open to all ethnicities; the great majority of recipients are still African American. It provides scholarships to students attending its member colleges or universities.

Eligibility

Candidates for an AABE scholarship must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. The student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted).
2. Be a graduating high school senior who intends to enroll next semester in an accredited college/university.
3. Plan to major in business, one of the physical sciences, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields in preparation for a career in the energy sector.

Example majors include but are not limited to the following academic disciplines with an intent to major in energy related sectors:

- *Business:* business administration, accounting, finance
 - *Physical Sciences:* chemistry, geology, metallurgy, nuclear physics, physics
 - *Technology:* computer science
 - *Engineering:* aerospace, automotive, chemical, civil, computer, construction, electrical, environmental, industrial & systems, materials, mechanical, metallurgical, nuclear, petroleum, power, software
 - *Mathematics:* applied mathematics, mathematics
4. If applying for any Florida Chapter scholarships, is a Florida resident or resides in an area where the Florida Chapter is the nearest AABE chapter.

Selection

Scholarship recipients - known as AABE Scholars - are determined each spring by the organization's local chapter scholarship committee for local scholarships and by the National Scholarship Committee for national and regional scholarships. Recipients of a Florida Chapter scholarship will receive notification of their selection by e-mail and/or phone. National and regional winners will be notified through methods determined by the National Office.

Awards

The Florida Chapter of AABE will award multiple scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Florida Chapter awards are usually \$1,000 to \$5,000 but may vary from year to year.

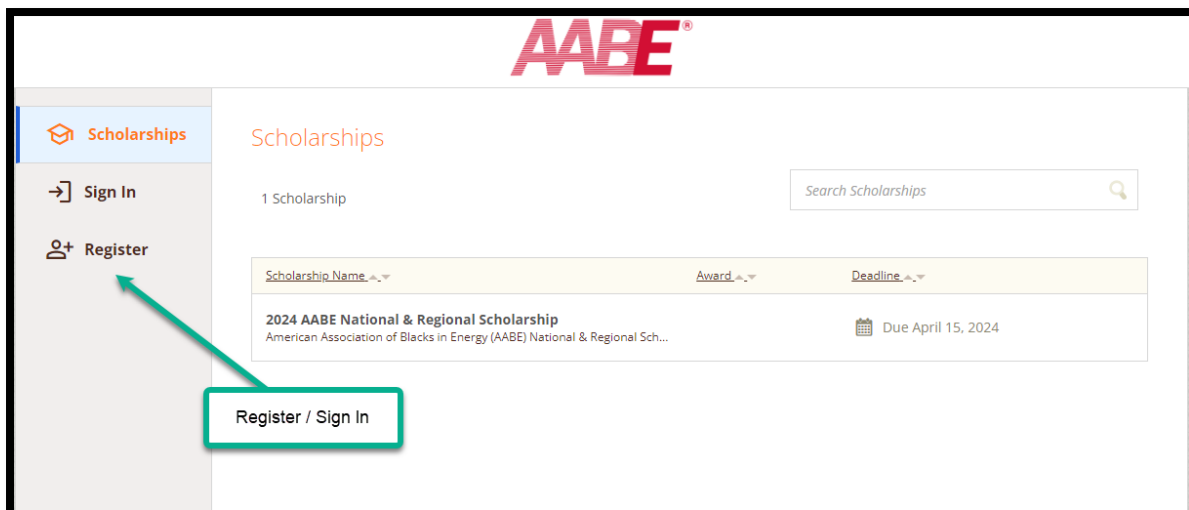
Select local chapter applications are forwarded to compete for a Southeast Regional Award of \$3,000. (The Southeast Region is one of six AABE Regions). Additionally, a Rufus D. Gladney Premier Award of \$5,000 is given annually for a maximum of four years to the candidate who is judged to demonstrate the most outstanding achievement and promise. This is a national award. National and regional awards are distributed to the students upon presentation of proof of enrollment at an accredited college or university. Distribution of local chapter awards is done by the local chapter upon proof of enrollment at an accredited college or university.

Additionally, AABE Florida Chapter High School award winners will be given the opportunity to apply for an annual continuing collegiate "AABE FL Scholars" scholarship based on certain criteria as outlined in a separate document (AABE FL Scholar Application). The AABE FL Scholar Application document will be sent out to our High School Award recipients annually up to the 4th year after their high school graduation year. The continuing scholarship award amount is usually \$250 to \$1,000 and can vary based on AABE Florida Chapter procurement.

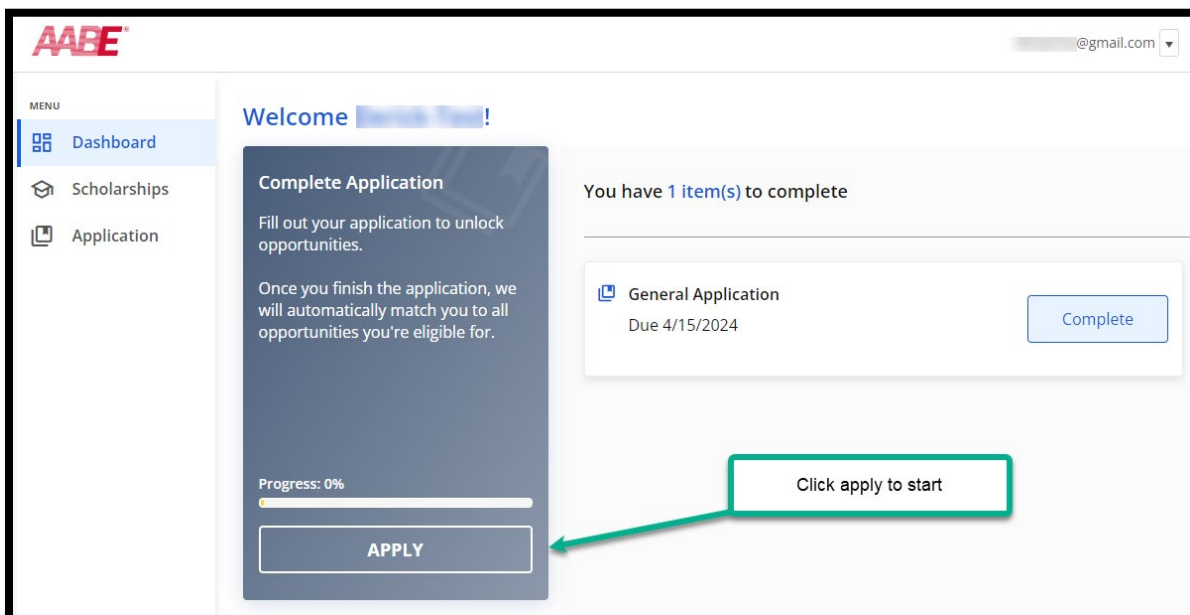
The Application Package

Consideration will be given only to candidates submitting complete online application packages to <https://aabescholarship.awardspring.com/Home/Scholarships>. A complete online application package will consist of:

1. Completed online AABE application form. Please fill out all required questions as indicated on the online application.
2. Make sure to apply through the AABE Florida Chapter Scholarship website linked above and shown below.



3. On the bottom of the first, click "**Apply**" to start.



4. As you navigate through the screens, don't forget to select "AABE Florida Chapter" as shown below:

Please select your local AABE chapter listed below, based on your CURRENT high school residency.

AABE Florida Chapter

Are you a graduating high school senior for the 2025-2026 school year?

YES

NO

Do you have an unweighted academic average/GPA of 3.0? (This is the program minimum requirement.)

YES

NO

Important: Select the Florida Chapter for your application

5. Official High School transcript needs to be uploaded under the Academic Information, see below:

! Enter your Unweighted GPA is required.

Application for **Florida Chapter**

Student Information
Completed

Parent(s) or Legal Guardian Information
Completed

Academic Information
In Progress

Student Activities

Essay

Letter of Recommendation

What is your current Academic Status?

I will graduate from high school in 2026.

I am NOT graduating in 2026.

Weighted or Unweighted GPA must be entered. Unweighted GPA is preferred.

GPA

Unweighted GPA

Weighted GPA

Enter your Unweighted GPA

|

Please upload official transcript documenting your senior year, end of first semester GPA.

Upload File

Have you completed or are currently enrolled in any Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes in high school?

Yes

Upload your official transcript

6. Official proof of ACT or SAT scores (screenshot/picture from College Board account showing your name is acceptable) will be uploaded on the online application as shown below.

Please select the major/program area that most closely represents your intended field of study.

✕ Automotive Engineering

Please select all college entrance exams taken (select ALL that apply). You will be prompted for upload and entry of your score(s)

ACT

SAT

None

Please upload official SAT record.

Upload File

Enter your SAT Score

A green arrow points to the 'Upload File' button.

7. A complete essay that has been proofread for typing error, grammar, structure, organization, content and clarity will be entered on the online application as shown below. The essay question will be shown on the online application.

Application for [redacted]

- Student Information**
Completed
- Parent(s) or Legal Guardian Information**
Completed
- Academic Information**
Completed
- Student Activities**
In Progress
- Essay**

Essay (500 words/less): "How has your background or personal journey shaped your interest in STEM, and how do you plan to use your education to make a difference?"

500 word(s) left

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8. A letter of recommendation will be sent to the person you designate in the fields below. Please select an individual who is not a family member; ideally, this should be a teacher, coach, mentor, employer, or a similar reference. Request your letter of recommendation early to allow enough time before the application deadline.

Application for [REDACTED]

Student Information <i>Completed</i>	<p>Please complete fields below to send a request to an individual of your choice to provide a letter of recommendation on your behalf.</p> <p>You will receive a confirmation email when the individual has submitted their letter.</p> <p>Recipient First Name</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Recipient Last Name</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Recipient Email</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Message to Recipient</p> <div data-bbox="755 1108 1187 1417"><p>B <i>I</i> <u>U</u> [List Icons] [Link Icon]</p><p>Thank you for considering my request for a letter of recommendation. I am currently applying for scholarships through the American Association of Blacks in Energy and they need a letter of recommendation supporting my application to their scholarships.</p></div> <p>Send Request</p>
Parent(s) or Legal Guardian Information <i>Completed</i>	
Academic Information <i>Completed</i>	
Student Activities <i>Completed</i>	
Essay <i>Completed</i>	
Letter of Recommendation	

Complete application packages **MUST BE COMPLETED (SUBMITTED) NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 2026** and submitted **ONLINE ONLY**. PLEASE DO NOT SEND APPLICATIONS TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE COMMITTEE AS THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR SUPPORT.



Please remember that in applying and if accepting a scholarship, you have agreed on the application to the below statements in the Certification Signature Section.

- ✓ I certify that the information provided on the application and all supporting documentation submitted at any time is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I give information that is not true or if I withhold information and my student(s) receive a scholarship for which they are not eligible, the scholarship will be denied or revoked.
- ✓ I have an **unweighted** GPA of a minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale without rounding.
- ✓ I am a graduating high school senior who intends to enroll next semester in an accredited college or university.
- ✓ I will major in business, one of the physical sciences, technology, engineering or mathematics fields as described in the guidelines on page 1.
- ✓ I have submitted a complete (ONLINE ONLY) AABE application package as described by the section "The Application Package" shown on pages 4 - 7. I understand that my application will not be considered if any of the required documentation is not submitted on-time or is incomplete.
- ✓ I have uploaded my official high school transcript as outlined in bullet number 5 on page 5. (Note: Please provide proof of the **unweighted GPA** to be included in transcripts).
- ✓ I have uploaded my official SAT/ACT scores as outlined in bullet number 6 on page 6.
- ✓ I have composed the requested essay and it has been proofread for typing errors, grammar, structure, organization, content and clarity.
- ✓ I have entered all my school and community extracurricular activities.
- ✓ I have reached out to the individual I have selected for my letter of recommendation and given them enough time to submit back to AABE.
- ✓ My name appears on **ALL** submitted supporting documents.

Renewing Scholarship Eligibility

The Rufus D. Gladney National Scholarship is renewable for up to four years. To receive the next installment, all three (3) of the following requirements must be met:

1. The student must maintain an academic average of 3.0 or better.
2. The student must have completed a minimum of 2 semesters prior to requesting the next installment.
3. The student's major must be in business or one of the physical sciences, technology, engineering or mathematics fields.

Scholarship Awarding Procedure and Payments

National Awards are made to the students upon presentation of proof of enrollment at an accredited college or university at the discretion of the National Office. Distribution of local chapter awards are made at the discretion of the local chapter upon proof of enrollment at an accredited college or university. The check will be made payable in the student's name.



Loss of Renewable Scholarship

The Rufus D. Gladney Scholarship will not be renewed if any of the following circumstances occur:

1. *Student does not complete two (2) concurrent semesters.*
2. *Student withdraws from school.*
3. *Student changes majors to an uncovered field of study.*
4. *Student does not maintain a 3.0 grade average.*

Change of Contact Information for Award Recipients

If there is a change of address, telephone, cell phone or e-mail address, the student must immediately notify the Association by email at: scholarship@aabefl.org.

Questions?

For Florida Chapter specific scholarship questions, reach out to the AABE Florida Chapter Scholarship Chair: Derick Farfan | scholarship@aabefl.org.