

## CEW+ Scholarship Program - Frequently Asked Questions

### Eligibility

Only degree-seeking students are eligible to apply for a CEW+ Scholarship. Students enrolled in certificate programs, postdoctoral researchers, and guest students are not eligible to apply.

- International students are eligible (so long as you meet the rest of the eligibility requirements).
- Students of any gender can apply.
- Students enrolled part-time are eligible to apply.

You can apply if you are not yet accepted but are planning to attend the University of Michigan in the upcoming fall semester. If you are applying to U-M at the same time that you are completing a CEW+ Scholarship application, please notify [cew-scholarships@umich.edu](mailto:cew-scholarships@umich.edu) no later than June 1, 2025, to confirm your plans for enrollment in the Fall 2025 or Winter 2026 semesters.

### Applying based on an Educational Interruption

If you are applying based on Educational Interruption, the interruption must be consecutive:

- 2-years (24 months) for undergraduate students
- 5-years (60 months) for graduate students

If you received academic credit for a class (ex. community college) you are considered enrolled regardless of whether those credits can apply to your degree. Therefore, you must take this into consideration when calculating the length of your interruption.

*Is time out of school between an undergraduate and master's degree considered an "interruption"?*

Yes. For this application, an "education interruption" refers to any period of continuous, non-enrollment that occurred after high school. This interruption may have occurred after completing one degree, and before beginning another, or the interruption may have occurred before an applicant reached graduation.

*Is it considered an interruption if I was working while I was out of school?*

Yes. There are a wide variety of reasons why applicants experience a gap in their education. There is no single cause for an interruption that you need to demonstrate. Examples of how applicants have spent the time during their education interruption include, work, caregiving, engaging in service activities, or recovering from illness.

*For any questions about the application, contact the CEW+ Funding Team at [cew-scholarships@umich.edu](mailto:cew-scholarships@umich.edu) or contact the Scholarship Program Manager at 734-764-4355 and leave a voicemail with your preferred call-back number.*

## Applying based on Primary Caregiver Status

Primary Caregiver definitions:

- Lives in the same residence at least 50% of the time and consistently assumes major responsibility for housing, health, and safety of a minor, older adult, or disabled adult; anticipates that this responsibility will continue during the upcoming academic year.
- Lives in a separate residence and provides care for a minor, older adult, or disabled adult for a minimum of 20 hours per week without monetary compensation for at least the past 6 months; anticipates that this responsibility will continue during the upcoming academic year.

*Does “caregiver” refer only to elder care?*

No. The term “primary caregiver” is used broadly for the purpose of this applicant to include students who are parents, as well as those who have caregiving responsibilities for other family members. If you are unsure if your unique situation qualifies, please reach out for additional guidance.

*Do I have to be a single parent to be considered a “primary caregiver” to my children?*

No. For this application, both partnered and single parents can claim “primary caregiver” status. Please be prepared to comment on your living arrangements and major responsibilities for the care that you assume as part of your application.

## Applying on the basis that you are a student who is pursuing a STEM degree and actively engaged in a Sponsored Student Organization (SSO) that supports gender diversity in STEM fields.

If you are applying on the basis that you are pursuing a STEM degree and actively engaged in an SSO that supports gender diversity in STEM, one letter of recommendation must come from an executive board, staff, or faculty leader from that organization.

The CEW+ Funding team will verify your organization’s status as an SSO at [maizepages.umich.edu](http://maizepages.umich.edu). To see a list of STEM degrees that meet the eligibility requirements for a CEW+ Scholarship, visit:

<http://www.cew.umich.edu/funding/cew-scholarships/>

*Can I qualify for this basis of eligibility if I am active in an organization that supports gender diversity in STEM that is not affiliated with U-M?*

No. This eligibility criterion is two-fold, and applicants need to demonstrate their engagement with a qualifying SSO by requesting one letter of support from a leader within that organization.

*Can I apply for this basis of eligibility if I participate in a voluntary student organization?*

No. This basis of eligibility is not flexible. Please verify the Center for Campus Involvement’s designation of your organization on Maize Pages if you are not clear on its status.

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## Submitting the Application - Survey Monkey Apply

The deadline to complete your CEW+ Scholarship Application is 11:59 PM on May 9, 2025.

Personal statements and explanations of eligibility should comply with the stated word limit: 200- words for the description of eligibility; 500-words for each personal statement. Note that you may receive an error message or be unable to save your application if the statement exceeds the stated word count.

Survey Monkey Apply offers helpful tips for applicants in this document:  
<https://smapply.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/115001445354-Applicant-FAQ>

**Letters of recommendation must be received before you are able to submit the application.** The submit button will not be active until all recommenders submit their requested letters.

*My reference is not responding, can I list another recommender?*

Yes, you may delete and enter the name of a different recommender on the SurveyMonkey Apply platform. Please note that both the removed recommender, and the new recommender will receive an automated message from the site.

*My recommender says the link is not working, they did not receive the automated message, or they are experiencing other technical difficulties uploading their letter of support. What should I do?*

References can submit letters of recommendation via email to [cew-scholarships@umich.edu](mailto:cew-scholarships@umich.edu). Please don't hesitate to share this contact with any recommenders experiencing technical difficulties.

*If my letters are not submitted by the deadline, can I still be considered for a scholarship?*

There is a 24-hour grace period for letters of recommendation. Please contact [cew-scholarships@umich.edu](mailto:cew-scholarships@umich.edu) if you have any concerns about the timing of your references.

*The application requires two letters of recommendation, but I still can't click "submit" with two attached. What's going on?*

Applicants will not be able to click "submit" without all requested letters attached. If you listed three recommenders, you will not be able to submit your application until either (1) the third letter is uploaded, or (2) you withdraw and delete the third reference. Please reach out about any specific concerns.

## CEW+ Scholarship Selection Process

There are multiple phases to the CEW+ Scholarship review and selection process. In the first phase, external committees review applications. In the second phase, applicants recommended for funding share details about financial need.

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- Phase 1 - Scholars Identified based on Merit.  
Scholar and alternate candidates are selected through a merit-based review process that takes place in two parts: (1) part one of the review focuses on personal statements; (2) part two of the review considers the entire application.
- Phase 2 - Award Amount Determined by Financial Need  
Specific award amounts for CEW+ Scholarships are determined to coordinate with the rest of the scholar's financial aid package. Financial information will be requested from scholars and alternates in the summer, after the selection committee completes its merit-based review.

*When will I find out if I am receiving a CEW+ Scholarship?*

The CEW+ Funding team will notify all applicants of their status following the committee review, approximately the last week of June or first week of July. After you submit additional about financial need, full scholarship offers, including the specific name of your award, and the amount of the scholarship are sent at the beginning of August.

### **Award Amount**

To ensure your consideration for the largest possible award from CEW+, you must complete and submit a FAFSA if you are eligible to do so. The priority deadline to complete the FAFSA is set by the Office of Financial Aid (OFA) as March 31, 2025. If you do not meet the priority deadline, please complete the FAFSA as soon as possible.

If you are eligible to apply for a FAFSA, and OFA does not have a record that you have completed the application by the end of the committee review its review, your application will only be considered for the minimum award (\$1,000).

Committees recommend CEW+ Scholars based on the merit of their application; the amount of your award is based on your financial situation.

*Note: International or undocumented students can complete an alternate form in lieu of the FAFSA. This takes place during the summer, when the CEW+ Funding team requests additional information about financial need from all applicants recommended as a scholar or alternate candidate.*

*Do I need to submit my FAFSA to CEW+?*

No. Go ahead and submit your FAFSA as normal, using the school code specific to your campus. CEW+ will coordinate with the appropriate office of financial aid for all necessary information.

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## **Using the Award**

Scholarships awarded this cycle can be used in any semester during the 2025-26 academic year (Fall 2025, Winter 2026, Spring 2026, Summer 2026). The earliest that a scholar selected during this application cycle could receive funding is September 2025. The scholarship can pay for living expenses if your tuition/fees are already covered.

*How will I receive my scholarship?*

CEW+ Scholarships are awarded through the student aid system. To serve the individual needs of scholars, you may request changes to payment method or timing of disbursement at the time you receive your award offer.

*Can a CEW+ Scholarship pay for childcare expenses?*

Yes. CEW+ awards can be used toward the cost of childcare. In some cases, documenting childcare expenses by completing a budget reevaluation with the office of financial aid, may improve the coordination of aid.

*Can I defer my CEW+ Scholarship?*

CEW+ Scholarships offers are determined based on funding gaps specific to the academic year for which you are applying. If your enrollment plans change, please notify [cew-scholarships@umich.edu](mailto:cew-scholarships@umich.edu)