

2026 JACL Chicago Scholarship Application



5415 N. Clark Street Chicago, IL 60640
www.jaclchicago.org

Scholarship Category (check one)

Entering Undergraduate (current high-school senior)

Continuing Undergraduate

Graduate

Instructions

- Please type all responses.
- All application materials, including the completed and signed application form and supplemental pages, official transcript(s), and recommendation letters, should be sent by email to scholarships@jaclchicago.org. Official transcripts and recommendations should be emailed directly by the issuing institution/recommender.
- The deadline for all application materials, including official transcripts and recommendations, is **11:59 PM Central Time on Sunday, March 1, 2026**. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.
- Applicants will receive an email confirmation upon receipt of all materials.
- All scholarship winners are required to attend the 2025 Scholarship Luncheon on **Sunday, May 17, 2026** in order to receive their award. Any awardee who does not attend without prior approval from the scholarship committee will forfeit their award.

Application Checklist

Completed and signed application form

Supplemental pages (for sections 3 - 6)

Official transcript(s) - sent directly by institution

Two (2) letters of recommendation - send directly by recommenders

Emailed to scholarships@jaclchicago.org by **Sunday, March 1, 2026 (11:59 PM Central)**

If you have any questions, please contact Christine Munteanu, Scholarship Committee Chair,
at scholarships@jaclchicago.org.

For more information, please visit www.jaclchicago.org/programs/scholarship-program.

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1. Personal Information

First name _____ Last name _____

Gender identity _____ Gender pronouns (ex: she/her/hers; they/them/their) _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ JACL membership ID # (Required for past scholarship winners only) _____

Parent/Guardian name(s) _____

How did you hear about the scholarship program? (check all that apply)

School Classmate Friend Relative Church JACler Newsletter Other _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

(award notification will be sent to this address in April)

Mailing address _____

(award notification will be sent to this address in April)

Home address* _____ Check if same as mailing address _____

Current school* _____

**Applicants must be residents of the State of Illinois (although attendance at schools outside of Illinois is permissible) OR actively enrolled in an accredited Illinois university, college, or institution of higher learning at the time of application.*

2. Academic Information

- Institution enrolled for Fall 2026 (name, city, state, expected graduation date).

Degree/major: _____

If undecided, please list all schools you have applied/been accepted to.

- GPA (for currently enrolled students) *First-year undergraduate applicants, please list your high school GPA.*
- Previous schools (post high-school: name, city, state, graduation date, degree/major, GPA.)

Official transcripts: *Entering undergraduate applicants, please have your school send an official high school transcript. Continuing undergraduate and graduate applicants, please have your school(s) send official transcript(s) for ALL completed post-secondary work (including both undergraduate and graduate transcripts, if applicable).*

- Scholastic honors: If applicable, list the year and names all scholarships and academic awards you have received.

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For the following sections (sections 3 - 6), please attach supplemental pages.

3. JACL involvement

Use this section to list your engagement with JACL at the local, regional, and national levels within the last four years only. Please provide short descriptions of your involvement and contributions, including years involved, leadership positions, etc.

Previous scholarship winners: List only activities, programs, organizations, positions, etc. in which you have participated since receiving your award.

4. Social justice involvement

Since its founding in 1929, JACL has been involved in social justice victories, including overturning immigration and naturalization restrictions, anti-miscegenation laws, and racial discrimination in education, housing, and employment. In addition, JACL has supported marriage equality, hate crime legislation, affirmative action in higher education, and diversity in media and politics.

Use this section to list activities, programs, initiatives, etc. that you have been a part of within the last four years only that align with JACL's mission of promoting social justice. Please provide short descriptions of your involvement and contributions, including years involved, organization mission (if applicable), leadership positions, awards received, etc.

Previous scholarship winners: List only activities, programs, organizations, positions, etc. in which you have participated since receiving your award

5. Other Activities

Use this section to list any activities not included in the previous sections (including Japanese American community involvement, extracurricular, co-curricular, volunteer, and work activities) from within the last four years only. Please provide short descriptions of your involvement and contributions, including years involved, organization mission (if applicable), leadership positions, awards received, etc.

Previous scholarship winners: List only activities, programs, organizations, positions, etc. in which you have participated since receiving your award.

6. Personal Statement

JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, whose mission is to advance social justice and promote the legacy and cultural heritage of the Japanese American community.

Question for first-time applicants/those who have not yet received a JACL Chicago scholarship ONLY: Why is the work of JACL important to you personally, and how does JACL's mission continue to be relevant to present-day society?

Question for previous JACL Chicago scholarship winners ONLY: How has your continued involvement with JACL shaped your personal, educational, and/or professional trajectory?

Please keep your statement between 500 to 1000 words, and type and double-space your response. Your submission grants JACL Chicago permissions to publish your personal statement in the chapter newsletter.

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7. Letters of Recommendation

Please submit two (2) letters of recommendation with your application. At least one of the letters must be from a teacher, counselor, or school administrator who is familiar with your academic work. Recommendations from friends or family will not be considered.

Each recommendation must be emailed directly by the recommender to scholarships@jaclchicago.org by the application deadline.

8. Acknowledgment

I have read and fully understand the eligibility requirements for the JACL Chicago Scholarship Program. I have completed the application honestly and to the best of my knowledge and understand that any misrepresentation of information contained in this application may disqualify me from an award. I agree to provide the JACL Chicago Scholarship Committee with verification of my enrollment upon request, and understand that if for any reason I do not enter a school in Fall 2026 as indicated, I will forfeit my rights to an award. I understand that **I must attend the 2026 JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon, scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2026**, in order to receive my award.

Applicant : _____

Date: _____