



2026

**Hildebrand Rural Scholars Program:
Achievement Scholarship Guidelines**

Important Dates to Remember

May 15, 2026

Online Application Released on Kaleidoscope

June 25, 2026

Scholarship application due online by **4:59 PM**

August 2026

Recipient selection notification

Hildebrand Rural Scholars Program Achievement Scholarship

In 2026, The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ will award Hildebrand Rural Achievement Scholarships to current Rodeo Scholars who have achieved academic excellence in their college career. Applicants must be former 4-H and/or FFA members exclusively from rural communities across Texas and who qualify for a Federal Pell Grant.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Educational Programs are a significant part of the Show's goals of benefiting youth, supporting education, and facilitating better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. All recipients of Show scholarships must demonstrate academic potential, citizenship/leadership, financial need, and they must currently attend a not-for-profit Texas college or university.

Scholarship Funding

Scholarships payments are for \$4,000 each semester and are awarded based on the number of semesters remaining towards completing an undergraduate degree. Funding may not be utilized for summer school or graduate school. Also, double payments are not available for Hildebrand Rural Scholars Program Achievement Scholarship funding. If you were previously awarded an Achievement scholarship, you are not eligible to apply for more funding.

2024 Scholarship Recipients – up to \$16,000, payable for up to two years.

2023 Scholarship Recipients – up to \$8,000, payable for up to one year.

2022 Scholarship Recipients – up to \$4,000, payable for one semester.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to apply for, or to be awarded, a Hildebrand Rural Scholars Achievement Scholarship, an applicant must:

1. Attend a not-for-profit Texas college or university (accredited by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges).
2. Be classified as a college junior (60 or more completed hours) or senior (90 or more completed hours) by the conclusion of the Spring 2026 semester. Students must have completed a minimum of **four** college semesters since high school graduation by the conclusion of the Spring 2026 semester. **Students awarded a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship in 2025 are not eligible.**

3. Have a **cumulative GPA of 2.5** or higher at the conclusion of the Spring 2026 semester. A student's cumulative GPA will be taken from the transcript of the university where the Spring 2026 disbursement was sent.
4. Must be attending or transferring to a four-year university for the Fall 2026 semester.
5. Must have been an active member of Texas 4-H and/or Texas FFA when in high school.
6. Must make their permanent home residence on a farm/ranch, or in a Texas city with a population of less than 10,000 per the most recently available census data.
7. Be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant per the student's FAFSA Submission Summary.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Application Process

- a. Complete and submit the online application prior to the deadline.
 - Eligible students will receive an email from the Educational Programs department with the link to the application once it is available. Once you begin the application, you may access your saved work via your Kaleidoscope account. Once your submission is made, you cannot make edits to the application.
- b. Applicants are required to submit the following forms through the online application process.
 - Official Transcript
 - i. Upload and submit a copy of an official transcript that includes all academic semester information, including final Spring 2026 grade information.
 - ii. Screenshots or copies of unofficial transcripts are not accepted.
 - iii. Transcripts that are mailed or emailed to the Educational Programs office will not be accepted.
 - iv. The transcript you upload for the Achievement application does not count towards the grade verification process for the Spring 2026 semester. All students will need to upload their academic transcript in the Gradebooks section of Kaleidoscope by June 30th for Spring semester grade verification.
 - Financial Aid Package/Award Letters
 - i. Upload and submit **Financial Aid Package/Award Letters** from the institutions you have attended. Students can provide a screenshot or scan from the school's website or provide an award letter from the school for each year in which they have been enrolled.

- ii. Applicants are required to submit at least two years (four semesters) of financial aid.
- FAFSA Submission Summary
 - i. Applicants are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit a copy of their FAFSA Submission Summary, which is obtained once the FAFSA is accepted and shows the applicant's Student Aid Index (formerly EFC).
 - ii. Please note that it takes some time after submitting the FAFSA application for you to receive the FAFSA Submission Summary.
- c. Please do not include documents that are not required (ie: letters of recommendation, additional essays, etc.) as they will be discarded.
- d. There are no changes to submitted applications, including replacing or updating uploaded documents.

2. Eligibility

- a. The Hildebrand Rural Scholars Achievement application process is only available online through Kaleidoscope.
- b. To apply, students must be ACTIVE Show scholars. The application will not be available for any student that has received a probationary status or other academic restrictions. In addition, if a student is not up to date in grade reporting requirements, the application will not be available to them.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT DATES

It is the sole responsibility of each applicant to be aware of all dates and deadlines.

The Show will not accept or consider any incomplete or late applications, no exceptions will be made.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

All completed applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of judges selected by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Incomplete and non-qualifying applications will not be considered.

NOTIFICATION OF RECIPIENTS

Final approval and notification of each scholarship recipient will be made by the Show's Office of Educational Programs in August 2026. All applicants will be notified via email if they are awarded a scholarship or not. Winners will be required to complete an acceptance form before payment can be made to your institution.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applications and supporting documentation become the property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has the right to refuse and/or retract any scholarship application or scholarship award during the judging, awarding, or post awarding process. Refusal/retraction can be based on, but not limited to, unfactual and incorrect information provided in the application or failure to meet any of the requirements.