SECTION H: SCHOLARSHIPS

VA DECA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Virginia DECA Foundation makes the Virginia DECA Scholarship Program possible through donations and dues. DECA is an organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The DECA Scholarship Program is designed to assist DECA members who wish to further their education in pursuit of their career goals. All VA DECA members are encouraged to apply.

APPLYING

Step 1: Apply online: **https://bit.ly/VADECA_Scholarships**
Step 2: Electronically attach the required documentation to the application.
Application AND Required Documentation MUST BE RECEIVED by DECEMBER 11, 2026
Finalist and advisors will be notified by January 26, 2027.
Please save all files using the format: Last Name First Initial - Document Name
Examples:

- SimpsonH_Transcript
- SimpsonH_Certification Page

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any high school senior who:

- is an active DECA member,
- has a minimum GPA of 2.5,
- and intends to pursue a postsecondary education/technical training program.

Each chapter is limited to no more than five (5) applicants per school year. Chapter advisor(s) should determine which applications are submitted to the Virginia DECA Scholarship Committee, ensuring that each chapter does not exceed its allocation of applicants.

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS?

- Applications are reviewed and ranked in order of merit with other applicants based on the included rubric. The scholarship committee will select finalists based on the score earned on each submitted application packet.
- The top students will be invited to a virtual panel interview.
- The pre-screening score will be added to the interview score to determine the recipients of the scholarships. Students are applying for a pool of scholarships, not a specifically named scholarship. No renewal of scholarships will be awarded.
- Scholarship finalists are encouraged to attend SLC competitors or SLDA participants.
- **VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS WILL BE SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 16 AND FEBRUARY 17, 2027.**
- Scholarship recognition will be presented at SLC.
- Funds will be disbursed directly to the postsecondary education/technical training program after proof of program enrollment and a copy of a thank you letter to the donor has been received by the Marketing and Related Cluster Specialist.

stateadvisor@vadeca.org
(757) 206-2770 | www.vadeca.org

Virginia DECA Scholarship Program: Empowering Emerging Leaders & Entrepreneurs

The Virginia DECA Scholarship Program is made possible by the Virginia DECA Foundation through generous donations and membership dues. Designed to assist active DECA members in pursuing postsecondary education and achieving their career goals, all eligible senior members are strongly encouraged to apply.

Eligibility Criteria

To apply, students must meet the following criteria:

- Membership: Must be an active, paid Virginia DECA member.
- Grade Level: High school senior (Grade 12).
- Academic Standing: Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.
- Future Plans: Intend to pursue postsecondary education or a technical training program.

⚠️ Chapter Limit: Each high school chapter is limited to a maximum of five (5) applicants per school year. Chapter advisors must determine which five applications are officially submitted to the scholarship committee.

Event	Date
Application & Document Submission Deadline	December 11, 2026
Finalists & Advisors Notified	January 26, 2027
Virtual Finalist Interviews	February 16 & 17, 2027*
Scholarship Recognition	February 26-28, 2027

*Interview dates subject to change based on committee's availability

📝 **How to Apply**

1. Online Application: Complete and submit the online application form at **https://bit.ly/VADECA_Scholarships**
2. File Naming Format: Save all electronic files using the standard naming format before attaching:
   - Format: Last Name First Initial - Document Name
   - Examples: SimpsonH_Transcript, SimpsonH_SignaturePage
3. Attach Required Documents: All supporting documentation must be submitted with the online application by **December 11, 2026**.

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Required Application Documents

The following documents must be attached electronically to your online application

- **Cover Letter / Letter of Introduction (Max 1 page)**
  - Addressed to the Scholarship Committee and signed by the applicant.
  - Introduces yourself, outlines your specific career objective, and details actions taken or planned to accomplish your goals (including education and employment).
- **Current High School Transcript**
  - Must include final grades through the end of 11th grade (Junior year) and show current 12th-grade course enrollment.
  - Must include an explanation of grading terms and scale.
- **Completed Signature Page**

The following should be sent from the recommender to scholarships@vadeca.org

- **Two (2) Letters of Recommendation (Must be signed in ink)**
  - DECA Reference: Letter from your DECA Chapter Advisor.
  - Professional/Academic Reference: Letter from an employer, school counselor, coach, or professional who can speak to your professionalism, teamwork, and drive to succeed.

Selection Process & Awarding

1. **Pre-Screening Review:** Applications are evaluated and scored against a rubric based on merit.
2. **Virtual Interviews:** Top scoring applicants are selected as finalists and invited to a virtual panel interview on February 16 or 17, 2027.
3. **Final Scoring:** Pre-screening and virtual interview scores are combined to determine final scholarship recipients.
4. **Disbursement of Funds:** Scholarships are non-renewable and drawn from a general scholarship pool. Funds are disbursed directly to the recipient's postsecondary institution after providing:
   - Proof of postsecondary/technical program enrollment.
   - A copy of a thank-you letter written to the scholarship donor (submitted to the Marketing and Related Cluster Specialist)

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VIRGINIA DECA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Application Checklist & Certification Signature Form (2026–2027)

⚠️ Important: Incomplete applications or those missing required signatures will not be considered by the scholarship committee.

Part 1: Application Documents Checklist
Please verify that all of the following items are completed and attached electronically before submitting your application:

- [ ] Online Application Form (Submitted via **https://bit.ly/VADECA_Scholarships**)
- [ ] Cover Letter / Letter of Introduction (Addressed to the committee; max 1 page)
- [ ] Current High School Transcript (Must include final 11th-grade marks, current 12th-grade course enrollment, and grade scale explanation)
- [ ] Completed & Signed Certification Form (This document)

Please verify that the following have been emailed to scholarships@vadeca.org
[ ] Two (2) Recommendation Letters (Signed in ink: 1 DECA Advisor reference, 1 Professional/Academic reference)

Part 2: Certifications & Required Signatures

Student Applicant Certification
I certify that all information submitted in this application is accurate and true. I understand that scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to my postsecondary institution only after I submit proof of program enrollment and a copy of my donor thank-you letter to the VDOE CTE Marketing & Related Cluster Specialist (or designee). I agree to request these funds no later than **October 30, 2027**, unless an extension is granted by the Virginia DECA Board of Trustees.

Student Signature: _____Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Certification
I have reviewed this application packet and confirm that all statements contained within are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____Date: _____

DECA Chapter Advisor Certification
I certify that the applicant is an active member in good standing in our marketing program and that all statements provided are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Advisor Signature: _____Date: _____

SECTION H: SCHOLARSHIPS

Value %	Criteria	*Suggested* Evidence
20	**Related Occupational Experiences**	• Required letter signed by applicant (4pts) • Clearly stated career goal (4pts) • Clearly stated area of study (4pts) • DECA Participation (4pts) • Paid/unpaid occupational/work-based learning/volunteer or community service experience (3pts) • Application checklist with required signatures (1pt)
10	**Academics**	• Transcripts including junior year/current enrollment verification (4pts) • Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher (3pts) • Marketing GPA of 3.0 or higher (3pts)
20	**Financial Documentation**	• Statement of need (5pts) • Application includes personal/family contributions (5pts) The application includes estimated program costs (5pts) The application includes other scholarships or sources of financial assistance (5pts)
40	**DECA Participation and Accomplishments**	• Held a position as a Chapter, District, or State Officer (4pts) Attended chapter meetings (3pts) • Participated in chapter recreational or social events (2pts) Attended DLC (4pts) • Attended SLC (3pts) • Attended ICDC (3pts) • Attended a leadership or competitive training conference (3pts) • Participated in a competitive event (4pts) • Participated in DECA Month activities (3pts) • Participated in Virginia DECA Day activities (4pts) • Assisted with the membership campaign or other recruitment activities (4pts) • Participated in an installation or induction ceremony (3pts)
10	**(2) Letters of Recommendation**	Two (2) Recommendation Letters–Verify they have been signed in ink and sent by your recommenders to **scholarships@vadeca.org** (1 DECA Advisor reference (6pts), 1 Professional/Academic reference (4pts))