Annual Scholarship Reviewer Rubrics

Academic Learning & Reflection (20 points possible)	Score
Academic Reflection Essay Question - 20 Points **20 points** ● Demonstrates in-depth reflection of educational journey ● Provides specific examples to support reflection **15 points** ● Demonstrates adequate reflection of educational journey ● Provides general examples to support reflection **10 points** ● Demonstrates some reflection of educational journey ● Provides no examples provided to support reflection **5 points** ● The response provides very little or no insight into the applicant's educational journey ● The respondent's lack of clarity impacts the reviewer's ability to score and/or does not respond to the prompt. **0 points** ● Did not provide enough information to determine a score	

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Financial Need Rubric (32 points possible) There are 3 sections on this rubric - Responsibilities, Debt, and Need. Each section is scored individually.	**Score**
How do they plan to cover costs? Consider these as "more secure" sources: ● Grants/scholarships ● Support from family ● Savings ● FAFSA/WASFA "Less secure / higher burden" sources: ● Loans ● Wages from current job ● "Other" if it suggests uncertainty (for example, "I don't know," "I will try to figure it out," etc.). ● May have to postpone school. POINTS ● 1-2 points – Lower financial strain ○ The student selects at least two "more secure" sources and does not rely only on loans and wages (for example, "grants/scholarships + family support"). ● 3-4 point – Some strain ○ Mix of more secure and less secure sources (for example, "grants + loans," or "family + wages"), or only one secure source with one less secure. ● 5-6 points – High strain ○ The student relies mostly on less secure sources (for example, "loans + wages," or "wages only," or "loans only"). ● 7-8 points – Very high strain / uncertainty ○ The student chooses "Other" and explains that they do not know how they will pay, may have to stop school, or have no clear plan. ○ The student mentions needing to postpone school if they don't receive aid.	

Household support

Use the answers to “Do you support other people?” and “How many people?”

- 1 point – Only self, no dependents
  - “No, it’s just me.”
- 2-3 point – Self plus one other adult on a single income
  - “Yes” and total supported people = 2, where it appears to be a shared-expense situation (for example, partner).
- 4-5 points – Self plus 1–2 dependents with more than one income
  - “Yes” and total supported people = 2–3, including at least one likely dependent (child, elder, disabled family member as seen in essay or notes).
- 6-7 points – Self plus 1 - 2 dependents on single income
  - “Yes” and total supported people ≥ 4, or narrative indicates high caregiving responsibility.
- 8 points - self plus 3 or more dependents on a single income.

Enrollment load

Use the answer to “Are you full-time or part-time?”

- 1 point – Part time (11 credits or less)
  - Lower total education costs and work/school load.
- 2-3 points – Full time (12+ credits)
  - Higher cost and less time to work.
- 4-5 points - Part time plus additional context
  - Additional context such as caring for family or working.
- 6 points – Full time plus additional context
  - Additional context such as caring for family or working.

Essay

Focus on clarity and concrete factors, not writing style.

- 0 points – No answer / off topic
  - Blank, “N/A,” or answer does not relate to finances, work, or responsibilities.
- 1-2 points – Minimal detail
  - Mentions that paying for college is hard, but gives no or very little detail (for example, “I have financial need,” “Money is tight,” with no examples).

● 3-4 points – One clear factor ○ Names at least one specific factor that affects paying for college (for example, job loss, medical bills, low income, being a single parent, helping family back home), but with limited explanation. ● 5-6 points – Multiple factors or strong impact ○ Describes at least two clear factors, or explains one major factor with some detail about its impact (for example, loss of housing plus increased work hours; or serious medical bills and reduced ability to work). ● 7-8 points – Multiple factors and clear impact ○ Explains several concrete challenges and clearly links them to difficulty paying for college this year (for example, caring for children or parents, medical debt, working many hours, risk of stopping school).	

Planning for the Future Rubric (30 total points possible) There are three essays in this section. Each essay is worth ten points for a total of 30 points for this section. The essays are scored individually on AwardSpring.	**Score**
10 points ● The essay is written with a clear and detailed response to the prompt and shows thought, focus, and organization. ● The essay highlights current circumstances in the applicant's life that support the need for this scholarship using personal narrative and examples as evidence. ● The essay provides insight into the applicant's character, strengths, and educational goals.	
7 points ● The essay is clear but lacks a focused and detailed response to the prompt. ● The essay highlights the current circumstances in the applicant's life that support the need for this scholarship using a personal narrative but lacks supporting examples. ● The essay provides some insight into the applicant's character, strengths, and educational goals.	
3 points ● The essay lacks clarity and/or a focused and detailed response to the prompt ● The essay needed more substance and/or supporting examples to effectively highlight their current personal circumstances that support the need for this scholarship. ● The essay provides little insight into the applicant's character, strengths, and educational goals.	
0 points ● The response's lack of clarity impacts the reviewer's ability to score, and/or does not respond to the prompt. ● The essay did not provide enough information about their current circumstances. ● The essay provides no insight into the applicant's character, strengths, and educational goals. **OR** ● Did not provide enough information to determine a score.	