

Witherell Memorial Education Scholarship Fund Administered by the Westhampton Cong. United Church of Christ

Established in 2018 by a bequest from Carol R. Witherell, this fund will provide financial assistance to students of any age seeking education above the secondary level. **To be eligible for a scholarship the applicant must be a resident of Westhampton or an active participant in the life of the Westhampton Congregational United Church of Christ**, who:

- 1) is a current high school senior intending to enroll in a post-secondary program or course of study that leads to a degree or a specialized certification in the coming academic year

or

- 2) is a student already enrolled in a post-secondary program or course of study that leads to a degree or a specialized certification and intends to continue their studies in the coming academic year

or

- 3) is a person who has completed high school/GED not currently enrolled in a post-secondary program or course of study but who intends to enroll in a program in the coming academic year.

According to the wishes of Ms. Witherell, awards will be based on financial need, school attendance or work history, community involvement, and evidence of serious interest in furthering your education. While academic standing may be considered, it will not be the primary determining factor of an award. All applicants and recipients are eligible to reapply in subsequent years, with repeat awards being made at the discretion of the selection committee. All information submitted in your application will be kept strictly confidential.

All Westhampton residents are equally welcome to apply for this scholarship, and there is no expectation of repayment or involvement with the Westhampton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We believe we are called to love everyone as God loves us, freely and without reservation. Our unconditional love is inclusive of all people. We denounce acts of discrimination and violence against any person. As an open and affirming church, we joyfully welcome all people into our community, regardless of faith background, age, gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnic background, socioeconomic status or physical/mental abilities.

INSTRUCTIONS

To be considered for an award all fields on the application form itself must be completed and the following four (4) items must be attached, or their absence explained. *NOTE: letters of recommendation may be attached OR may be mailed directly from the recommender to the scholarship committee at the Westhampton Church. All other supporting documents must accompany the application. Previously submitted letters or essays are not acceptable. Current and up-to-date documentation is required each year.*

- 1) A personal statement that includes (a) a description of the goals that you hope to achieve throughout your post-secondary education, (b) an indication of how you plan to finance the degree or certificate you are seeking, (c) why this scholarship would help you achieve your goals, and (d) any additional information that you feel would be helpful to the scholarship committee as it reviews your application.
- 2) A copy (does not need to be official) of your academic transcript(s) from the school(s) or college(s) that you have attended during your most recent year(s) of academic study.
- 3) A copy of your FAFSA report for the current year, if available. If not available, please attach documentation of household financial resources and liabilities.
- 4) At least one letter of recommendation indicating your qualification and/or need for this scholarship to be attached or sent directly to the scholarship committee at the address indicated. (Appropriate sources for a letter of recommendation include a recent teacher, counselor, employer, coach, or a Westhampton resident or church member who knows you well, but is not a family member.)

The scholarship committee may determine to seek personal contact with the applicant if questions remain.

Please mail your completed scholarship application, with supporting documents, postmarked by April 30, to:

**Westhampton U.C.C.
Scholarship Committee
1 Tob Rd.
Westhampton, MA 01027**

Or, the completed application can be dropped off at the circulation desk of the Westhampton Library no later than April 30.

**To be considered for an award,
applications and supporting documentation
MUST be postmarked (or received) by April 30, 2026**

2026 Application

Witherell Memorial Education Scholarship

Administered by the Westhampton Cong. United Church of Christ

Application checklist:	
1	Completed and signed application (<i>additional pages may be attached</i>)
2	Personal statement
3	Copy of academic transcript
4	Copy of FAFSA report/financial resources
5	Letter of recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> enclosed <i>or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> being sent directly from _____

*Complete applications (**must** be postmarked by April 30, 2026) should be mailed to:*

***Westhampton U.C.C.
Scholarship Committee
1 Tob Rd.
Westhampton, MA 01027***

or may be dropped off in person at the Westhampton library circulation desk (also by April 30, 2026)

Tips for a successful application:

- 1) Please read the scholarship description to ensure that you are eligible.
- 2) Check that you have completed ALL fields of the application and attached all required supplemental material. If you feel you need to explain something or are unsure of exactly how to complete a section, feel free to attach additional explanation as needed.
- 3) Because financial need is the important criteria for this award, it is essential that you provide as much detail as you can about your anticipated program costs and debts, as well as anticipated financial support and assets. If you have not yet received an updated cost breakdown or financial aid award, please give your best estimate based on what you DO know, using published data or past year's awards.
- 4) If you are reapplying for this scholarship, please know that the committee looks for evidence that the applicant has made use of opportunities for growth. We suggest you consider getting a letter of recommendation from someone new – perhaps a current professor, major advisor, supervisor, etc. – rather than relying on the same person from before you began your program of study.
- 5) The April 30th deadline is a HARD deadline. Please plan accordingly!

Fill out what is applicable - please enter N/A if it does not apply to you

1) Applicant Contact Information

Name:	
Address:	
Email:	
Phone Number:	

**2) Name(s) of parent(s)/
guardian(s):**

Occupation(s):	
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3) CURRENT School/Program Enrollment

(check correct box)	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Other	GPA

Major/Certificate

4) If not currently enrolled in a school, please give the name and location of high school or post-secondary school/program most recently attended, as well as a description of current employment/activities:

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5) a. Have you applied for this scholarship previously?

b. Did you receive an award?	Yes	No
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6) Community activities or involvement (for ex. clubs, volunteer work, elected positions, teams, etc.):

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7) Honors/awards/recognitions, including but not limited to those directly associated with a school or college:

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8) Ways that you have worked to earn money, and any amount you have been able to save, to help support your post-secondary education:

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9) Names and ages of family members living in your home, and if applicable, any post-secondary colleges or schools they expect to attend next year.

10) List the colleges, vocational schools or graduate schools to which you have applied.

Indicate your preferences among them and responses you have received

OR

If you are currently enrolled in a college, vocational school, graduate school, or certificate program, please indicate where you intend to enroll next year and what your class level will be:

11) Please complete the following to describe your expected cost of attendance for the coming year at the college or training program enrolled in or applied to. Include financial aid award, if applicable, including federal loans and other scholarship aid already received.

If a first-year student or enrolling in a program other than a 4-year college, please only complete the column for freshman year. If a returning student, completing information from past years will help the committee understand your prior costs, awards, and loan debt. If you do not feel you can fully represent your expected costs in this format, please attach an additional page describing your situation.

Projected COSTS/YEAR	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Does this include housing?	Yes/ No			

LOANS	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior

GRANTS/AWARDS	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior

Student Aid Index (SAI) from FASFA report	
Will your parents/family be providing financial support for/during this educational program?	Yes / No

Signature of applicant	Date