

INVESTING IN YOUR PASSION

Each year, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) awards more than \$1 million in scholarships to individuals pursuing a post-secondary degree in the restaurant, foodservice, and hospitality industry.

Since the program's inception in 1987, the Foundation has awarded more than \$27 million in scholarships and grants to over 6,000 students and food service educators pursuing restaurant-related degrees and professional training through its scholarships and grants programs.

KEY STATS

- 65% of NRAEF Scholarship recipients are first-generation college students
- 99% have previously worked in the restaurant & hospitality industry
- More than 58% recipients self-identify as a member of a community of color



"I am a first-generation college student, and I've been working in the restaurant industry for 17 years to continue my growth...working in a restaurant is more than just serving food; it's about putting the needs of others first and creating an exceptional experience for my guest."

- Erica, 2024 Scholar

"I'm an older student and what inspired me to attend culinary school is that my son was a chef when he was enlisted in the military and passed in 2018, and as a tribute to him, I wanted to continue my education and become a chef like he was."

- Hiwatha, 2024 Scholar

"One day, I want to open my own restaurant and showcase Mexican American cuisine. As a Mexican American woman, I'm excited to share my culture with business professionals and friends."

- Molly I, 2024 Scholar

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

1. A personal e-mail address to create an application account
2. A PDF of your most current transcript that shows your cumulative GPA or your certificate for a GED
3. Military discharge papers, if applying as a veteran

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE? CAN I STILL APPLY?

Yes, if you already possess a previous undergraduate or graduate degree in any field and are now pursuing a degree in hospitality, you are still eligible to apply.

WHAT CAN MY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BE USED FOR?

Scholarships are awarded annually and split between the Fall and Spring semesters. Scholarships may be used for tuition and fees, books, room and board (on or off campus), transportation costs, meal plan costs, or any other school-related expenses (e.g., uniforms, knife kits, supplies, etc.). Funds CANNOT be used to pay off school loans and are non-transferable.

KEY DATES

- **January 15:** Scholarship Application Opens
- **March 15:** Application Closes
- **April - May:** Scholarship Application Review
- **June:** Scholarship Award Notifications
- **July - August:** Scholarship Claiming and Payments
- **August 15:** Deadline to Claim Scholarship

THE NRAEF IS HERE TO HELP YOU START YOUR RESTAURANT & HOSPITALITY CAREER ON THE RIGHT FOOT.



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [CHOOSERESTAURANTS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://choosorestaurants.org/scholarships)
OR EMAIL [SCHOLARS@NRAEF.ORG](mailto:scholars@nraef.org)