SWE Scholarships FAQ

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General Questions

India Scholarship Questions

School and Major

Transcripts and Resumes

Financial

References

General Questions

1. Which scholarship application should I use?

    a. If you will be a continuing undergraduate student (rising sophomore, junior, or senior) or a new or continuing graduate student in the upcoming academic year, you should apply using the ABET Upperclass application.*

    b. If you will be entering your first year of college/university in the upcoming academic year (a current high school senior or have not previously attended college/university), you should apply using the ABET Incoming Freshmen application.*

    c. If you will be an undergraduate or graduate student in India in the upcoming academic year, you should apply using the India application.*

    Please refer to swe.org/scholarships/ for the most up to date application opening dates and deadlines. Dates are subject to change.

2. Do I need to be a member of SWE to be eligible for SWE scholarships?

    No, you do not have to be a member of SWE to be eligible for SWE scholarships. However, some of the scholarships do require SWE membership (ABET Upperclass applicants only). To be considered a member of SWE, you must be a paid member of the society and have a membership number. Participation in your section's activities alone does not make you a member of the society. To learn more about membership in SWE, please visit https://swe.org/membership/benefits/. Please note, current high school students are not eligible to become SWE members, so none of the incoming freshmen scholarships require SWE membership.

3. How do I apply for more than one SWE scholarship?

    By completing one application, applicants will automatically be considered for all SWE scholarships for which they are eligible.

4. What if I am a student outside the United States?

    For the India scholarships, see the program's specific FAQ for more details.

    For the ABET scholarships, students outside of the United States studying or planning to study a ABET-accredited program are welcome to apply for SWE scholarships. We also accept ABET-accredited schools outside of the United States for some of our scholarships. If

you are a student outside of the United States studying at a program within the United States, please select the respective state and school in your application. If you are a student outside of the United States or will be studying at a program outside of the United States, please select the respective country and school in your application.

5. I will be a junior next year in my engineering curriculum, but a senior in credits. What should my class status be?

Please enter the class level that your school has identified you will be in the fall. For example, if in the upcoming fall you will be working on the 3rd year of curriculum that your program requires, then you will be a junior. Similarly, students who will be attending their first semester of college this upcoming fall, regardless of how many credit hours they are starting with, should apply in the freshman application period.

6. What if I do not have a School Address yet?

Please enter a general address for your school (such as an academic building, stadium, etc.) if you do not have your school residence address yet.

7. How do I retrieve my SWE Member ID?

You can get your member number by logging into SWE.org. Once you have logged in, your ID will display under your member information in "My Information". You may want to check your record to confirm your membership is current.

If you do not have your login information, then choose "Forgot Your Password". Enter your email address and you will receive an email to reset your password. If you are still unable to locate your ID, please email membership@swe.org.

8. What if I do not receive my acceptance letter prior to the scholarship deadline?

If you do not receive your acceptance letter prior to the deadline, then please attach a document noting this. You can enter a zero or not available for student I.D. number to submit your application.

If you are selected for a scholarship, then we will request proof of acceptance from you. If you decide on a different school and major than what you submitted, this could also affect your eligibility for some scholarships.

If there is a chance that your acceptance letter will arrive prior to the deadline, then please do not submit your application ahead of time. Once you submit you will not be able to make changes.

Please contact us via email at scholarships@swe.org with any questions or application updates.

9. Can I still apply for a scholarship if I do not decide on my intended school prior to the scholarship deadline?

If you will not receive all your admissions decisions or decide on a school prior to the application deadline, you can still apply for a SWE scholarship. If there is a chance that you will choose a school prior to the application deadline, then please wait until you make that decision to submit your application. Once you submit you will not be able to make changes,

but we know that sometimes things change, so you can always email us if you decide to attend a different school or pursue a different major.

If you do not decide on a school prior to the scholarship application deadline, then please list your probable first choice school. If you have not yet received an acceptance letter, please upload a document stating you have applied and are waiting for a decision and enter a 0 for your student ID. If you are selected for a scholarship, then we will request proof of acceptance from you.

If you decide on a different school and/or major than what you submitted, this could also affect your eligibility for some scholarships so please inform us via email to scholarships@swe.org as soon as possible with any school or major changes.

10. What is SWE looking for besides GPA?

SWE considers academic achievements, participation in extracurricular/volunteer activities and interest in engineering. We are looking for involvement in engineering-related organizations beyond joining and attending events/meetings. Even if you can't become an officer or chair of a committee, we recommend participation to show you are committed and involved.

11. When will scholarship decisions be announced?

SWE will begin to notify Upperclass scholarship recipients in May and Freshman recipients in June. This process may not be completed until August and all applications will be updated once all recipients have been selected. Note that some of the SWE scholarships are not restricted by class level. Thus, we must process freshmen applications before identifying recipients. All applicants will be notified by September whether they are or are not selected for a scholarship.

12. What are the application statuses? How do I know if I have completed all requirements?

The application statuses are:
- **Draft** - The application is started, but not finished. The application can be edited. Reference contact information can be submitted and references can submit their recommendations. Draft **applications are <u>not</u> eligible for review after the deadline.**
- **Submitted** - The application has been submitted and can no longer be edited. Reference contact information can be submitted and references can submit their recommendations until the deadline. **Submitted applications are eligible for review after the deadline ONLY IF both recommendations have been completed.**

13. How do you define eligibility as it relates to being a woman?

SWE Scholarships are open to all candidates who identify as a woman.

14. I am a graduate student, and my program is not ABET-accredited. Am I eligible?

If you are a graduate student (e.g., Masters, PhD candidates) must be enrolled or accepted at a school with an associated ABET-accredited undergraduate programs in engineering, computing, or technology.

For example, an applicant who is considering an M.S. in Chemical Engineering at a specific school, this applicant would be eligible if that school has an ABET-accredited B.S. in Chemical Engineering. If an applicant is pursuing an engineering, computing, or technology degree that does not have a similar undergraduate program, please contact scholarships@swe.org to check for eligibility.

India Scholarship Questions

1. What are the eligibility requirements for the SWE India Scholarship?
   Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the SWE India scholarships:
   - Identify as a woman
   - Planning to pursue or currently pursuing an engineering, technology, or computing program that is accredited by the National Board of Accreditation of India or a SWE Affiliate. See the list of eligible programs.
   - Planning to enroll as a full-time student in the upcoming academic year
   - Must not be receiving full funding for tuition, fees, and books or equivalent

2. Do I need to be a member of SWE to apply?
   No. Applicants do not need to be SWE members to be eligible to apply for the SWE India scholarship program.

3. How do I apply?
   Register on SWE's Scholarship application system and select the India application.

4. What information will I need to provide on the SWE India scholarship application?
   To see the complete details of the information required to apply, please register and start an application. In general, you'll be asked to provide the following information:
   - Past educational experience
   - University and program you plan to attend
   - Letter of acceptance. Note, you may still apply If you do not receive your acceptance letter prior to the application deadline.
   - Financial details
   - School, community, and work activities
   - Essay (350 word limit)
   - Honors and awards
   - Resume/CV
   - Faculty reference and personal reference contact information
   - Transcript of past academic degree, if applicable

5. When will I find out if I will be awarded a scholarship?
   Applicants will be notified in May of the decision and funds will be distributed by July. Please note, this timeline is subject to change. Please contact scholarships@swe.org with any questions.

School and Major

1. My school and/or my major aren't displayed in the drop down for intended school.
   Applicants must be enrolled in an ABET-accredited program to be eligible for a SWE scholarship. Please go to abet.org to review accredited programs in engineering,

computing, and technology.

(Note: Some schools may only have select engineering and/or computer science programs that are accredited. If you have any questions regarding eligibility, please email scholarships@swe.org.

2. What is an ABET-accredited program?

ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) defines programs as a combination of major and school. Please visit the ABET website for more information. You can search by school and other methods on their Find Accredited Programs page. ABET accredits programs based on a specific process, so the accredited programs may vary greatly depending on the school.

3. What happens if I change my school or my major for the fall session?

You cannot change your application once it has been submitted.If a change needs to be made prior to the deadline, contact scholarships@swe.org. If the deadline has passed, no changes can be made. You should notify SWE of a change to your school or major only if you are selected to receive a scholarship.

4. What if I am a community college student?

Students who attend an ABET-accredited community college program full time are eligible to apply for SWE scholarships. Please visit the ABET website for more information. You can search by school and other methods on their Find Accredited Programs page.

Applicants should apply in the application period that applies to their class status. If it is their first year attending college, they should apply during the freshman application period (typically starting in March). If they have already completed a year or more of full-time community college, then the applicant should apply during the upperclassmen application period (typically starting in December).

Transcripts and Resumes

1. Can I attach an unofficial transcript?

Yes, all transcripts uploaded to your application will be considered unofficial. Scholarship recipients will have to submit official transcripts at a later date. Please make sure that your transcript includes your name, your school, dates, classes, and a cumulative GPA.

2. Do I have to create a resume if I am applying as a freshman?

Yes, resumes are required for all applicants. There are no requirements or restrictions on the format or content.

3. Does my resume have to be a specific type format? What about content?

No, there are no restrictions on or requirements for the format or content of your resume. You must save the document as a .pdf for it to successfully upload to your application. The Scholarship Committee recommends that you include any extra curricular activities, work experience, and volunteer experience in your resume, in addition to your school information and GPA.

4. I have completed at least 1 semester or term but do not have a GPA yet.

   Please attach your transcript showing that you have passed your classes and check the Pass/Fail box in the application.

5. I just started a new school and thus do not have a GPA.

   If you have not finished any classes for your current school yet, then we will use the GPA from your previous school. You will need to attach the transcript from your current school and most recent school as one file. This will help the reviewers to understand your situation and still be able to review your application appropriately.

6. What if I don't have an unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale?

   Please request if your school is able to calculate or convert your weighted GPA or any GPAs on a non-4.0 scale for you. If your school is not able to provide an unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale, there are also a variety of online tools that can help you calculate your unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale.

7. My school will not send me a digital copy of my transcript.

   Please obtain a hard copy of your transcript, scan it in, and attach the file to your application.

8. What if my unofficial transcript does not have all the required information?

   You may need to scan an official version of your transcript in order to include all the required information. The most important piece of information is the unweighted, cumulative GPA.

Financial

1. What is an FAFSA number? How do I know my Expected Family Contribution (EFC) or Student Aid Index (SAI)?

   FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. If you have applied for financial aid for the 2023-2024 academic year or earlier, then you will have been assigned an FAFSA number and Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Your EFC is reported on your *Student Aid Report* (SAR). You can view your SAR by logging in to your FAFSA form and selecting "View SAR" from the My FAFSA page.

   Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, FAFSA has replaced Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI). Due to FAFSA delays for the 2024-2025 academic year applications, we understand that applicants may not yet have their SAI. Please contact scholarships@swe.org with any questions or concerns regarding your FAFSA application.

2. How will students receive scholarship funds?

   Checks are mailed to the school directly at the beginning of September. We ask that the funds be used for educational purposes, such as tuition and books.

References
Personal Reference:

Please enter your reference contact information as early as possible to ensure your reference is able to complete the recommendation by the deadline. Your personal reference must be a person who has known you for two or more years and who is not a relative or member of your family. For example, this reference can be from a coach or a family friend. Make sure that your reference will be able to complete their recommendation by the deadline via Kaleidoscope. We cannot accept letters via mail or email. We highly recommend emailing your reference before submitting to ensure that you have a valid email address. You may want to copy and paste the email address from a successful email communication to minimize entry errors. References must complete their recommendations by the application deadline. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their recommendations are received prior to the deadline. Any applications that do not receive both completed recommendations by the deadline will not be evaluated for scholarship consideration.

STEM Reference:
Please enter your reference contact information as early as possible to ensure your reference is able to complete the recommendation by the deadline. We highly recommend that your reference be someone in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) field who is familiar with your academic work. Make sure that your reference will be able to complete their recommendation by the deadline via Kaleidoscope. We cannot accept letters via mail or email. We highly recommend emailing your reference before submitting to ensure that you have a valid email address. You may want to copy and paste the email address from a successful email communication to minimize entry errors. References must complete their recommendations by the application deadline. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their recommendations are received prior to the deadline. Any applications that do not receive both completed recommendations by the deadline will not be evaluated for scholarship consideration.

1. Can my reference mail or e-mail their recommendation letter?
   No, your reference must submit their recommendation via Kaleidoscope
   apply.mykaleidoscope.com/login

2. Do the references have to complete their recommendations by the same date my application is due?
   Yes, all recommendations must be received by the deadline. Please note that your recommenders will not receive the link to complete their portion until their information has been added to your application. In order to give your recommenders as much time as possible to complete their recommendation, please enter your recommender contact information as early as possible. Applications that do not have two completed recommendations by the deadline will be considered incomplete and will not be evaluated for scholarship consideration. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure recommendations are successfully submitted by the deadline.

3. How can I make sure that I and my references receive emails from Kaleidoscope? What if my reference has not received any emails?
   Add a filter to your email account allowing emails from help@mykaleidoscope.com and scholarships@swe.org. For references, please encourage them to do this before you enter them as a reference. References will receive an email with the subject line "You have received a recommendation request!" from help@mykaleidoscope.com.

Also confirm that you have submitted the reference email addresses correctly. You may want to suggest that they copy and paste the password into the appropriate login box to minimize errors.

4. What references are suitable for re-entry/non-traditional applicants?
References for re-entry or non-traditional students:
- Faculty reference - an employer or teacher
- Personal reference - a person who has known you for 2 or more years and who is not a relative or member of your family

5. Suggestions for working with your References.
Remember that both of your references must submit their recommendations by the deadline for your application to be considered complete. Here are some suggestions to help make that happen:

- Get your references' agreement and understanding before submitting their contact information. The references process is:
  - You submit contact information for your reference.
  - Reference immediately receives their login email.
  - Reference follows link in email and logs into Kaleidoscope.
  - Once logged into Kaleidoscope they will see your recommendation request waiting for them to complete. By clicking "View" they can begin working on completing the recommendation and are able to save their progress until they are ready to submit.
- Once you have their agreement, submit their contact information as early as possible to give them as much time as possible. **Please note, SWE will not accept any recommendations after the deadline** has passed.
- References receive weekly email reminders until they have completed their recommendation.
- Confirm that they received their login email and offer your help if they have not received the email.
  - Reference emails often land in the spam/junk folder, or are blocked by school district firewalls. If your recommender is still unable to locate the email, you can advise them to follow these instructions.

    Log into Kaleidoscope: https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/login from there they will be prompted to set up a password if they have not logged into Kaleidoscope before. Make sure you advise your reference to log into their account with the email address you submitted in your application. Once logged in, their dashboard will show your recommendation request that needs to be completed.

    If your reference(s) need additional assistance, please have them email help@mykaleidoscope.com.

- You are responsible for monitoring the status of your references' submittals by viewing your application in the Kaleidoscope portal. Your application card will reflect your contributor status and by clicking on that number you can view the individual status of

each request. Please ensure that your recommendations are complete by the deadline. Your application will not be considered complete if the recommendations are not submitted by the application deadline. Once both references are complete the contributor status on your application card will display as "2/2 completed"