



MACON COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

3351 N. President Howard Brown Blvd., Decatur, IL 62521

2026 Macon County HCE Scholarship Application

The mission of **Macon County Home & Community Education** is to enhance the lives of individuals and families through quality educational programs and experiences encouraging responsible leadership and service to the community. In an effort to support continuing education, Macon County HCE will be offering up to **four scholarships of \$500.00 each, as monies allows**, to any Macon County HCE member or the child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a member of HCE. The dues-paying member must be in good standing with the organization for a minimum of 3 years.

The Macon County HCE scholarship recipients are judged on overall financial need, community and volunteer experience, academics, scholarship, and work history. The scholarship committee should be able to see highlights of all of these criteria in the application, reason statement, and also the references provided by the applicant.

To apply for the Macon County HCE Scholarship, applicants must be aware of and adhere to the following criteria.

1. Applicant must be a member of Macon County HCE, or the child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of an HCE member. The dues-paying member must be in good standing with the organization for a minimum of 3 years.
2. The purpose of this scholarship is expected to help defray education costs for the 2026/2027 school year. Disbursements will be made prior to the beginning of the school year.
3. Applicant must be attending a 2 or 4-year college, trade school, or any other accredited institution of higher learning, and is not restricted to any particular educational choices.
4. Applicants should be aware that scholarships are offered with no discrimination to sex, age, years in school, or national origin.
5. Applicants may apply annually for two years, provided funding is available, but must submit a new application each year.
6. Recipients of each scholarship must maintain a minimum of 2.5 out of 4.0 grade point average and complete at least 12 credit hours during that semester.

Interested Applicants, please see information below for applications.

Applications for 2026 will be available starting on February 23, 2026. Applications can be found on-line at (**mchce.org**) under the **Education** tab or at the University of Illinois Extension Office at 3351 N. President Howard Brown Blvd., Decatur, IL 62521 with the phone number of 217.877.6042. All completed applications must have a current non-professional photograph attached, which will not be returned to the applicant. **Applications must be in the hands of University of Illinois Extension, Macon County Office, by 4:00 pm on Monday, July 6, 2026.** It is strongly suggested that applicants send the entire application in one mailing with reference letters attached. Due to the inconsistency of the U.S. Mail, it is also suggested that letters and applications be mailed no later than **June 30, 2026**. No late applications or reference letters will be accepted.

Our Mission

“Macon County HCE enhances the lives of individuals and families through quality educational programs and experiences encouraging responsible leadership and service to the community.”

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Applicant _____

Relationship to HCE Member _____

Name of HCE Member _____

Name of HCE Member's Unit _____

Applicant's Address _____

Applicant's City, State, & Zip _____

Applicant's Telephone Number Home _____ Cell _____

Applicant's E-Mail Address _____

College Name you are Attending _____

Address of College _____

Have you been accepted? _____

A. Course of Study or Major _____

B. What license, certificate, or degree is granted on completion? _____

C. What are your employment goals/plans? _____

Community & Volunteer Service (Including HCE Activities)

Present & Past Work Experience

Signatures –

I hereby understand the criteria and responsibilities that are required for this scholarship application.

_____ **Macon County HCE Member's Signature** **Date** _____

_____ **Macon County HCE Scholarship Applicant's Signature** **Date** _____

Additional Instructions

1. Read and adhere to the criteria on page 1 of the application.
2. Complete page 2 of the application which is to be submitted in the application packet with a **signature** from the **applicant** and the Macon County **HCE Member**.
3. All completed applications must have a current non-professional photograph attached to the application that will not be returned.
4. Attach an official signed, embossed, and sealed transcript from your high school or university.
5. Attach a 1 to 2 page 8 1/2" X 11" typed, double-spaced, 12-point type, with 1 inch margins paper stating reasons why you feel you should be selected for the Macon County HCE Scholarship basing your paper on overall financial need, community & volunteer experience, scholarship, and work history. Make sure to inform the committee about why this scholarship is important to you.
6. Attach two letters of reference addressing the items listed above. References can be from teachers, employers, volunteering organizations, but may not be from family members. It is strongly suggested that applicants include their letters of reference in the application packet. No late letters of reference will be accepted, and must be at the University of Illinois Extension Office by 4:00 pm on Monday, **July 6, 2026**.
7. Applications should be sent to:

University of Illinois Extension
Attn: Extension Secretary
3351 N. President Howard Brown Blvd.
Decatur, IL 62521
217.877.6042

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS AND REQUESTS LISTED ON THE NOTICE OF AWARD LETTER. OTHERWISE, THE SCHOLARSHIP MUST BE RETURNED IN FULL TO MACON COUNTY HCE. If for any reason the applicant is unable to enroll or does not fulfill all of the criteria, the awarded scholarship is to be returned (in full) to the Macon County HCE Treasurer. It will then be awarded to an approved alternate.

The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to make judgment in cases not covered by the guidelines.