



2026 NMCEL Scholarship Guidelines

- Applicants must have a minimum **3.0 GPA** and be academically strong.
- Applicants should be **well-rounded**, participating in a variety of school and community activities.
- Applicants must be **graduating seniors** from a New Mexico public high school.
- Applications must be submitted **by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026.**
- **Submit your application using the attached Google Form and email all required materials to: nmcel scholarship2026@gmail.com.**
- The selection committee consists of **three NMCEL Executive Board members**, facilitated by the Scholarship Committee Chair.
- Applicants will be evaluated on the **Application Form (serves as the cover page), References, and Written Essay.**
- Finalists will be notified **no later than Friday, April 24, 2026.**
- The top **7–10 candidates** will be interviewed via **Zoom on Friday, May 8, 2026.**
- Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing **no later than Monday, May 18, 2026.** **All other applicants will be notified by Friday, May 22, 2026.**
- Recipients must enroll as **full-time students** at a college or university in the fall immediately following graduation.
- **Three to five scholarships of \$2,000** each will be awarded at the NMCEL Awards Luncheon during the annual conference, the week of **July 13, 2026**, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque.
- To receive the scholarship check at the luncheon, recipients must complete a **1099 form** provided by the Scholarship Committee Chair.
- The scholarship will be **forfeited** if the student does not begin college classes in the fall after graduation, and funds must be returned to NMCEL.
- **Receiving the NMCEL Scholarship does not reduce or negatively affect any other financial aid the student may be awarded.**

Questions: Please email Bobbie Gutierrez, Scholarship Chair, at bj.gutierrez@nmreca.org