2027 CISCO Educational & Workforce Advancement Scholarship Program

OBJECTIVE

The CISCO Educational & Workforce Advancement Scholarship Program supports lifelong learning, skilled trades, workforce development and academic achievement by investing in the next generation of industry leaders, tradespeople, professionals, and lifelong learners connected to the CISCO community.

ELIGIBILITY

The CISCO Scholarship program provides financial support to eligible CISCO-affiliated building trade Union members, non-bargaining unit employees of CISCO-affiliated Union contractors, their spouse or surviving spouse, children and their dependents who are pursuing higher education, technical training, skilled trade programs, certifications, or other approved post-secondary educational opportunities. Scholarships will be awarded annually to eligible applicants who meet the program requirements.

Applicants must be accepted to, enrolled in, or intend to enroll in an accredited college, university, community college, trade school, technical institute, certification program, or other approved post-secondary educational pathway. Eligible applicants may include current high school seniors, traditional college students, adult learners, and individuals pursuing career advancement or workforce credentials.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The following information is required from each candidate:

1. A completed version of the application form.
2. One (1) completed Personal Reference Forms, filled out by a school faculty member, guidance counselor, supervisor, or adult not related to the student.
3. A copy of high school official or unofficial transcript or similar documentation reflecting academic grades/records or Applicants who have been out of high school for five or more years may substitute a resume, professional portfolio, employment history, certifications, military records, or other evidence of achievement in lieu of high school transcripts.
4. Please attach the above documents ONLY as .pdf files, and DO NOT EMBED them in your email to CISCO.

AWARDS

Scholarship awards are granted for one academic year only. Eligible students may reapply in subsequent years if they continue to meet program requirements. Prior receipt of a scholarship does not guarantee future awards, and all applications are evaluated competitively each year.

1. A maximum of five (5) $2,000 scholarships will be awarded yearly.
2. Scholarship awards will generally be disbursed directly to the recipient's educational institution or approved training program and applied in accordance with the institution's policies and procedures. In the event that this is not possible, CISCO will send scholarship awards directly to the award recipient, with check payable to the Education Institution.
3. Scholarship funds are intended to support the recipient's educational expenses, including tuition,

fees, books, supplies, tools, equipment, certifications, and other costs associated with the recipient's approved educational or training program.

4. All scholarship awards will be formally announced at an official CISCO function in the spring.

5. Scholarship recipients must enroll in and begin an approved educational or training program within two (2) years of receiving the award. Recipients who are unable to use the scholarship within that period may submit a written request for an extension, which may be granted at the discretion of CISCO for extenuating circumstances. Failure to use the scholarship within the two-year period, or any approved extension period, may result in forfeiture of the award.

JUDGING

1. CISCO has sole discretion in the awarding of scholarships. Scholarship recipients are selected through a competitive review process that considers academic performance, recommendations, extracurricular and community involvement, employment experiences, military service, leadership, personal achievements, educational goals, and potential for future success. CISCO reserves the right to delegate the review and selection of recipients to the Scholarship Selection Committee.

2. Applicants selected as finalists may be invited to participate in an inverview with representatives of the Scholarship Selection Committee. Only scholarsip recipients will be notified of the final selection decisions.

DEADLINE

Each entry, including all required data, can be either mailed (postmarked by **February 12, 2027)**, OR emailed to Julia Mulvey at: julia@cisco.org. CISCO will combine documents sent separately into the same student's application file. Mailed entries should be sent to:

Construction Industry Service Corporation
999 McClintock Dr., STE 100, Burr Ridge IL 60527

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CISCO Scholarship Application Instructions

1. Complete all sections of the application and provide all required supporting documentation.
2. Responses may be typed or printed clearly.
3. If a question does not apply to you, enter “N/A” (Not Applicable).
4. Applicants must be complete, accurate, and submitted by the stated deadline to be considered for review.
5. The completeness, quality, and clarity of application materials will be considered during the evaluation process.
6. Applications can be dropped off at the CISCO office, postmarked or emailed to Julia Mulvey at julia@cisco.org by February 12, 2027.

Financial Need Information (Optional)

Financial need may be considered as one factor in the scholarship review process. Applicants may demonstrate financial need by submitting one of the following:

A copy of the applicant's FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS)

OR

A Statement of Financial Hardship describing financial circumstances that may affect the applicant's ability to pursue educational, training, or certification goals.

Applicants who submit a Financial Hardship Statement should briefly explain any and all relevant circumstances, such as:

____ Educational Expenses

____ Family Responsibilities

____ Loss of Income

____ Career Transition

____ Military Service

____ Medical Expenses

____ Significant Change in Family Circumstances

____ Other (Please describe)

All financial information submitted as part of the scholarship application will be treated confidentially and reviewed only for scholarship evaluation purposes.

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CISCO Scholarship Application

Personal Information

Name:

(First) (Middle) (Last)

Home Address:

(Number & Street) (City) (State & Zip Code)

Contact Information:

(Phone Number) (Email)

Date of Birth:

(MM/DD/YYYY format)
Used for eligibility verification and administrative purposes only.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (if applicable):

(First) (Middle) (Last)

Parent/Guardian Contact Information (if applicable):

(Phone Number) (Email)

CISCO Affiliation:

(Organization)

Please list the name of the CISCO-affiliated Local Union, Construction Company, or Contractor Association with which you, your spouse, parent, guardian, or employer is affiliated. This information is required to verify eligibility and must be provided for the application to be considered.

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CISCO Scholarship Application

Educational Status:

____ High School Senior

____ Recent High School Graduate

____ Community College Student

____ University Student

____ Trade School Student

____ Career Advancement Student

____ Adult Learner

____ Continuing Education Student

____ Other (Please describe)

Program Information:

Name of College, University, Trade School, Technical Institute, or Training Provider:

Program of Study, Trade, or Training Program:

Degree, Certificate, Credential, or License Completion Objective:

Anticipated Completion or Graduation Date:

(MM/DD/YYYY format)

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CISCO Scholarship Application

Leadership, Service and Involvement:

Please list any student organizations, professional associations, community service activities, volunteer work, trade organizations, Union activities, workplace leadership roles, military service, or other examples of leadership, involvement, and community engagement.

Awards, Honors & Certifications:

Please list academic awards, certifications, leadership recognition, workplace achievements, trade competition awards, licenses, or other accomplishments.

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Employment, Internships and Military Experience:

List your current and previous employment, internships, military service, or other relevant experience, beginning with the most recent position. Briefly describe your responsibilities, accomplishments, skills developed, and average hours worked per week, if applicable.

Employer/Organization

Position/Title

Start Date/End Date

(MM/DD/YYYY format)

Primary Responsibities:

Skills, Certifications, Leadership Experience, or Professional Development Gained:

2027 CISCO Educational & Workforce Advancement Scholarship Program

Employment, Internships and Military Experience:

List your current and previous employment, internships, military service, or other relevant experience, beginning with the most recent position. Briefly describe your responsibilities, accomplishments, skills developed, and average hours worked per week, if applicable.

Employer/Organization

Position/Title

Start Date/End Date

(MM/DD/YYYY format)

Primary Responsibities:

Skills, Certifications, Leadership Experience, or Professional Development Gained:

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Personal Statement and Applicant Responses:

The following questions provide an opportunity to share information about your educational goals, experiences, achievements, and qualifications. Please answer all questions thoughtfully and completely. Provide additional pages if needed. Each question has a 500 word maximum.

1. What educational, training, or career goals do you hope to achieve through your chosen program of study?

2. Describe any academic, professional, personal, or financial challenges you have overcome and how they have influenced your goals.

3. How will this scholarship assist you in achieving your educational and career objectives?

4. Describe any leadership, community service, workplace, Union, military, or volunteer experiences that have been meaningful to you. What did you learn from it?

5. Please provide any additional information you would like the Scholarship Selection Committee to consider

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Applicant Certification and Authorization:

I certify that the information provided in this application and all supporting materials is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that CISCO and/or its designated Scholarship Selection Committee may review the application and supporting documentation for the purpose of evaluating eligibility and selecting scholarship recipients. I understand that any false or misleading information may result in disqualification from consideration or withdrawal of an award.

I authorize CISCO to verify information contained in this application, as necessary, for scholarship administration purposes. All applicant information will be maintained in accordance with applicable privacy and confidentiality requirements.

Educational Institution Information:

Name of Educational Institution, Training Provider, or Educational Program:

Address:

(Number & Street) (City) (State & Zip Code)

Contact Information:

(Phone and Email) (Website)

Applicant Signature: Date:

If applicant is under 18 years of age:

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date:

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Application Checklist

Please verify that you have included the following:

☐ Completed Scholarship Application

☐ Personal Reference Form

☐ Personal Statement and Applicant Responses

☐ Additional supporting documentation (if applicable)

☐ FAFSA Submission Summary or Financial Hardship Statement (if submitting for financial need consideration)

☐ Any other required materials listed in the application instructions

To Be Considered:

Submit all application materials to:

CISCO – 999 McClintock Drive, STE 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Attn: Julia Mulvey delivered, postmarked or emailed to julia@cisco.org

by February 12, 2027

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Personal Reference Form

Must be filled out by a school faculty member, guidance counselor, supervisor, or adult not related to the student

Full Name of Student: _____

The applicant named above has identified you as a reference in support of their application for a CISCO (Construction Industry Service Corporation) Scholarship. Your assessment is an important part of the scholarship review process. Please provide thoughtful and specific comments regarding the applicant's character, leadership, accomplishments, work ethic, commitment to education or training, and potential for future success.

Reference Information:

Please complete this form in its entirety. If additional space is needed, attach a separate sheet.
All information provided will be used solely for scholarship evaluation purposes and will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Name of Reference

_____

Position/Title

_____

Organization/Employer/School:

_____

Address:

_____

(Number & Street) (City) (State & Zip Code)

Contact Information:

_____

(Phone and Email) (Website)

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity do you know the applicant? _____

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Personal Reference Form

Evaluation of Applicant Qualities:

Please rate the applicant using the scale of 0 = Poor | 5 = Average | 10 = Outstanding

____ Character and Integrity

____ Work Ethic

____ Initiative and Motivation

____ Commitment to Education, Training, or Professional Growth

____ Dependabiloity

____ Initiative and Motivation

____ Leadership Potential

____ Potential for Future Success

Reference Comments:

Please provide your assessment of the applicant's strengths, achievements, character, work ethic, leadership abilities, and potential for future success in their educational, training, and career pursuits. Include any additional information you believe would be helpful to the Scholarship Selection Committee. *Attach additional pages if necessary.*

Reference Signature: **Date:**