



## **Announcing the GACS Educational Foundation Scholarships for the 2012-13 Academic Year Apply Online: <https://aim.applyists.net/GACS>**

The GACS Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the following scholarships for the children or employees of GACS member firms (retailer or associate) for the 2012-13 academic year:

One (1) Brittany Schmeelk Scholarship - \$2,000  
Four (4) \$1,000 Outstanding Academic Merit Scholarships  
Nine (9) \$1,000 Financial Need Scholarships  
Two (2) \$1,500 B Average Scholarships  
One (1) \$1,000 B Average Scholarship  
Two (2) \$1,000 Outstanding Extracurricular Activity, Arts, and/or Sports Scholarships

In addition, the winner of the Brittany Schmeelk Scholarship will receive a complimentary registration and guest registration, plus accommodations at the 2012 GACS Convention at the Amelia Island Plantation

### **Who Is Eligible?**

High School Seniors, College Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors Who Are:

1. Sons and daughters of full-time employees of firms that are members of the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores. The parent must have been employed for at least one year as of January 1, 2012.
2. Part-time and full-time employees who are full-time students employed by firms that are members of the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores. The applicant must have been employed for at least six months as of January 1, 2012.

### **Selection of Winners**

Scholarship winners will be selected in May by a panel of educators. Winners will be notified in June 2012. Winners must enroll in college as full-time students in the fall of 2012. Completed applications must be received by the program administrator no later than April 2, 2012.

### **How to Apply**

To obtain a scholarship application or for additional info, contact the GACS office at 770-736-9723 or apply online at <https://aim.applyists.net/GACS>

**ATTENTION - GACS Members: Please Make Copies and Distribute**

# GACS Educational Foundation Scholarship Program

Apply online at <https://aim.applyists.net/GACS>

## Eligibility

Those eligible to apply are current high school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who are dependent children of employees of GACS member companies or employees of GACS member companies. Employees must have at least one year of continuous service as of January 1 of the year in which the scholarships are awarded and must still be employed by the GACS member company at the time the winners are notified.

## Awards and Winner Selection

A Selection Committee who has no connection with the GACS Educational Foundation will evaluate the applications and select the winners. The use of this independent committee is designed to ensure the impartiality and confidentiality of the selection process.

The GACS Educational Foundation offers a various number of awards each year as outlined below. Each scholarship is a one-year award and will only be applied to the school year immediately following the date of the award. Scholarship recipients may reapply each year, for up to four years, if they and/or their parent/legal guardian continue to meet the eligibility requirements. The scholarships will be applied to educational expenses at any accredited, nonprofit college or university. Recipients may transfer from one college to another and retain the award.

One (1) \$2,000 Scholarship (Britney Schmeelk) will be awarded to the most outstanding applicant in the areas of academic merit, college GPA (if applicable), extracurricular activities, ACT scores, and SAT scores, plus any related coursework. Recipients of the Britney Schmeelk Scholarship are limited to winning the award one time, however, they may reapply for other awards as described above.

Four (4) \$1,000 Scholarships will be awarded to outstanding applicants in the areas of academic merit, college GPA (if applicable), extracurricular activities, ACT scores, and SAT scores, plus any related coursework.

Nine (9) \$1,000 Scholarships will be awarded to qualified candidates who demonstrate financial need.

Two (2) \$1,500 and one (1) \$1,000 Scholarships will be awarded to qualified candidates with a B average.

Two (2) \$1,000 Scholarships will be awarded to qualified candidates who are outstanding in any or all of the following: extracurricular activity, arts, and/or sports.

## Making Changes to Your Application/Checking Your Application Status

Return to <https://aim.applyists.net/GACS> to make changes to your application or to check your application status.

## Responsibilities of Recipients

You must enroll as a full time undergraduate in the fall of the year in which the scholarships are awarded, continue the entire academic year without interruption unless approved by scholarship sponsor, and deliver your scholarship check(s) to the proper office at your institution.

## Payment of Funds

Checks will be issued in August to each recipient's mailing address and made payable to the institution on the profile page.

## Program Administration

To assure complete impartiality in selection of winners and to maintain a high level of professionalism, the program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc., a firm that specializes in managing sponsored scholarship programs.

## Questions

For additional information regarding the scholarship program contact ISTS by email at [contactus@applyists.com](mailto:contactus@applyists.com). When emailing please include the name of the scholarship program or sponsor and your username.



## Educational Foundation Scholarship Program

**Mail by April 2 to:**  
**GACS Scholarship Program**  
 c/o ISTS  
 1321 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 800  
 Nashville TN 37217

**All applicants must complete steps 1-3: College Students must also complete step 4.**

1. Complete this Application Page and the Activities Page.
2. Obtain and attach a copy of your high school record, which includes at least seven semesters of grades and all standardized test scores. **This does not have to be an official transcript.** If your ACT and/or SAT scores do not appear on your record, attach a copy of the scores as received from the College Board and/or ACT.
3. Mail or fax your completed scholarship application by the **April 2** deadline to the address indicated above.  
**Attention College Students:**
4. You must *also* submit current official transcripts of your grades from each college you have attended.  
**A high school record is needed regardless of the applicant's year in college.**

**Student Information:**

First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee Information:** The person checked below is the employee of a GACS member firm:

- My Father  My Mother  My Stepparent  My Legal Guardian  Myself  Both parent and self

Name of Employee \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employee Work Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hire Date (MM/YYYY) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Business phone # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of hours employee works per week:  6-10  11-15  15-20  over 20

**High School Information:**

High School Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**Academic Information:**

Please provide your **HIGH SCHOOL** information in the boxes below.

Weighted or Unweighted GPA	GPA Scale	GPA	Class Rank	Class Size	ACT - Composite	SAT - Critical Reading	SAT - Math	SAT - Written

**Specify Number of**

Honors Courses Taken	AP Courses Taken	IB Courses Taken

**All applicants must indicate Class Level and Major. Current college students must provide their college GPA.**

Class level in Fall 2012*	GPA (current college students)	Major
1 2 3 4 (circle one, refer to key below)		

\* College Level Key 1 – Freshman 2 – Sophomore 3 – Junior 4 – Senior

**College Information:**

Specify your first choice only.

State \_\_\_\_\_ Full College Name (Do not abbreviate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Information:**

The information below should be provided based on household tax information. If your parents are divorced and you do not live with the parent whose employment makes you eligible, provide the information reported on the employee-parent's tax return. This information should be taken from the most recently filed income tax return.

If your parents have not yet filed a tax return this year, you may provide information based on last year's tax return.

1. Adjusted gross income on most recent Federal Income Tax Return \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Total number in the household (only include the parents/legal guardians and dependent children) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Total number of dependent children who will be attending college in the fall \_\_\_\_\_

**EXTRACURRICULAR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

List activities in which you have participated during the last three years (school clubs, student government, publications, varsity or club sports, theater arts, Scouting, 4-H, etc.). Indicate the number of years involved in each activity. Please do not use acronyms.

Activity Description		

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

List community agencies or organizations in which you have participated WITHOUT PAY during the last three years (religious groups, hospital volunteer, cultural activities, outreach programs, etc.). Indicate the total amount of hours in the past three years. Please do not use acronyms.

Volunteer Activities	

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

List honors and/or awards you have earned. For each award list the Level (School, State, Regional, District, National, ect.) and the number of years you have achieved that award. **Do not use acronyms.**

Honors and Awards		

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

List your work experience of the last three jobs you have held the longest (e.g. food server, babysitting, lawn mowing, office work, etc.). Indicate the number of years spent on the job and an approximate number of hours worked each week.

Employer			

## APPLICATION CHECK LIST

You may use the following checklist to ensure the application process is complete.

**All documents must arrive in the same package for the submission to be considered complete.**

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

- I have attached my application and activities form.
- I have attached my high school record.
- I have attached copies of my ACT and/or SAT scores (documented on high school record or on score report).
- I have attached my college transcript(s) (for college students only).
- I understand these documents may be scanned and agree not to staple, paper clip or otherwise attach documents together.
- I have photocopied my entire submission for my files.

## CERTIFICATION

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the information on this application is complete and accurate. Falsification of any information will cause my disqualification from the scholarship competition.

I understand it is my responsibility to make sure this application is completed and mailed by the required postmark deadline listed on the application. Furthermore, I understand that if my application is not complete, or if I do not submit my application by the postmark deadline, I may be disqualified from the scholarship competition and may not be considered for a scholarship.

This application, upon receipt, becomes the property of the scholarship sponsor, and of International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc., the administrator of the scholarship program.

**To comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, I hereby give permission for school officials to release my secondary school record and other requested information, if necessary.**

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If the student is under 18 years old)



# Georgia Association of Convenience Stores Educational Foundation Scholarship Program 2012-13

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Must be a high school senior, college freshman, sophomore or junior
- Must be the dependent child of an employee of GACS member companies, or an employee of GACS member companies
- The eligible employee must have at least one year of continuous service as of January 1 of the year in which the scholarships are awarded
- The eligible employee must be employed at the time awards are announced

*Note: If you or your parent/guardian is an eligible employee at the time you receive notification that you have received an award you will retain the award for the full academic term.*

### How do I get an application?

Applicants can apply online at [aim.applyists.net/GACS](http://aim.applyists.net/GACS). Paper applications are available from your employer.

### When is the application deadline?

The deadline to apply is **April 2**.

### What are the details of the award?

- The GACS Educational Foundation offers a various number of awards each year:
  - One (1) \$2000 Scholarship (Britney Schmeelk) will be awarded to the most outstanding applicant in the areas of academic merit, college GPA (if applicable), extracurricular activities, ACT scores, and SAT scores, plus any related coursework. Recipients of the Britney Schmeelk Scholarship are limited to winning the award one time; however they may reapply for other awards as described below.
  - Four (4) \$1000 Scholarships will be awarded to outstanding applicants in the areas of academic merit, college GPA (if applicable), extracurricular activities, ACT scores, and SAT scores, plus any related coursework.
  - Nine (9) \$1000 Scholarships will be awarded to qualified candidates who demonstrate financial need. Preferential treatment for two of these Scholarships will be given to qualified candidates planning to attend a technical college.
  - Two (2) \$1500 Scholarships and one (1) \$1000 Scholarship will be awarded to qualified candidates with a B average.
  - Two (2) \$1000 Scholarships will be awarded to qualified candidates who are outstanding in any or all of the following: extracurricular activity, arts, and or sports.
- Each scholarship is a one-year award and will only be applied to the school year immediately following the date of the award.
- Students may reapply each year, for up to four years, as long as they and/or their parent/legal guardian continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- The scholarships will be applied to tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for course load.
- Institutions must be accredited, nonprofit two or four-year colleges/universities.
- A student may transfer from one institution to another and retain the award.

### What are the selection criteria?

- An independent selection committee will evaluate the applications and select the winners.
- The committee will consider:
  - Financial need
  - Community involvement
  - Academic achievements and records

*Decisions of the selection committees are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.*

### Which school should I list on the application if I have not made a final decision?

You should list your first choice on the application. If you are chosen to receive an award, it will be your responsibility to make certain ISTS is aware of your final school choice so that your check can be issued accordingly.

### How do I know that my application was received?

Go online to [aim.applyists.net/GACS](http://aim.applyists.net/GACS) to check your application status or to make changes to your application.

## How do I know if my application is complete?

- Allow five to seven business days after uploading documents for your online status to update.
- **You may monitor your status of each required form and attachment on your home page at [aim.applyists.net](http://aim.applyists.net).**
  - Not Started - **the form has not been requested or started**
  - Started – **the form has not been submitted**
  - Submitted - **the form has been submitted**
  - Not received - **the attachment has not been received**
  - Not verified - **the attachment has been received and is being processed and verified**
  - Verified - **the attachment has been verified and accepted by ISTS**
  - Requested - **the form request has been created, but the form has not been started**
  - Complete - **all required forms and attachments (if applicable) have been received and your application will be considered for the scholarship**

## Where and when should I send my supporting documents?

Mail your complete application packet with all supporting documents postmarked by the appropriate deadline to:

### GACS Scholarship Program

c/o ISTS

1321 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 800

Nashville, Tennessee 37217

All documents, including transcripts, must arrive in the same package for submission to be considered complete.

If applying online, the required supporting documents must be uploaded to your online application by the application deadline. If you do not follow the upload instructions exactly your application may not be considered.

## How and when will I receive notification?

- Notifications are sent to recipients and applicants not selected to receive an award **by email** approximately two months after the final deadline.
- Add [info@applyists.com](mailto:info@applyists.com) to your email address book or “safe senders list” so these important emails are not sent to your junk mail folder.
- **Do not ‘opt out’ of any email sent from [info@applyists.com](mailto:info@applyists.com). You may not receive vital information regarding your scholarship applications.**

*Note: Your email address will only be used to communicate with you about your scholarship applications or other opportunities administered by ISTS for which you may be eligible to apply. We will not provide your email address to any third-parties.*

## What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?

You must enroll as a full time undergraduate in the fall of the year in which the scholarships are awarded, continue the entire academic year without interruption unless approved by scholarship sponsor, deliver your scholarship check(s) to the proper office at your institution, and notify ISTS should your check not arrive within 30 days of the issue date.

## How and when are checks issued?

Checks will be issued in August to each recipient’s mailing address and made payable to the institution on the profile page.

## Are scholarships taxable?

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition or textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against your scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax advisor for more guidance. You may also consult IRS Publication 970 for further information (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf> ).

## Program Administration

To assure complete impartiality in selection of winners and to maintain a high level of professionalism, the program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc., a firm that specializes in managing sponsored scholarship programs.

## Questions

For additional information regarding the scholarship program contact ISTS by email at [contactus@applyists.com](mailto:contactus@applyists.com). When emailing please include the name of the scholarship program or sponsor and your username.