



SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTIAN CENTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

INFORMATION & APPLICATION

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The San Francisco Christian Center Scholarship provides financial assistance for active members of the San Francisco Christian Center (SFCC) who are attempting to further their education via an accredited college, university, professional or vocational school.

A minimum one-year membership {defined as a twelve (12) month period} is required at the time of application. Active membership is defined as persons who have completed requirements for membership or youth membership as outlined in the SFCC bylaws and are currently active participants in church activities/auxiliaries, financial support of the church and attend worship services regularly.

The Scholarship Committee oversees the San Francisco Christian Center Scholarship and is also responsible for developing, reviewing, and modifying guidelines of the disbursement requests, and organizing fundraising activities to support the scholarship fund. The SFCC Scholarship award budget is \$6,000.00 and is awarded annually during the SFCC Annual Baccalaureate service. This budget covers the Margaret Berry Award for Continuing Education and the Dessie Webster Memorial Scholarship and Book Awards.

THE MARGARET BERRY AWARD FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION (GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD)

The SFCC General Scholarship Award is named after the late Sister Margaret Berry who served on the SFCC Scholarship Committee since its inception in 1992. She led the committee for 15 years and worked tirelessly to expand the award to include more students each year. Margaret enjoyed learning and had a heart for all students, especially those that returned to school to complete their college degree. The SFCC General Scholarship Award has been renamed after Margaret for her service, leadership, and love for all students. This award can be used for undergraduate study only. Applicants may reapply annually for the Margaret Berry Award for up to 6 years total. Awards generally range from \$500 - \$1000.

MARGARET BERRY SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be a member of San Francisco Christian Center in good standing as outlined in the SFCC Bylaws.
- Provide evidence of graduation from high school or equivalent.
- Be a high school senior or adult planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited college, university, or vocational school.
- Provide evidence (transcript) of a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- Official evidence of college acceptance or proof of registration and continued enrollment.

THE DESSIE WEBSTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This scholarship is named in honor of the late Dr. Dessie Webster who founded the Fellowship Bible Institute in San Francisco, California in 1953. It was her dedication to biblical leadership and concern for the community that led her to the founding of the Institute. Dr. Webster served her community as an educator, administrator, evangelist, children's worker, hospital chaplain, family counselor and an urban missionary.

The Dessie Webster Memorial Scholarship Award is a one-time 4-yr award open ONLY to high school seniors or equivalent. *Dessie Webster awardees must maintain eligibility status and are not required to resubmit an SFCC application once awarded. In subsequent years after initial award disbursements, applicants are required to provide yearly verification of eligibility. Up to eight semi-annual disbursements will be provided to eligible awardees at the following award levels during the life of the scholarship award: (a) \$1600 (b) \$1700 (c) \$1900 and (d) \$2300.

DESSIE WEBSTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Meets all above requirements for General Margaret Berry Scholarship
Be a high school senior or equivalent enrolling in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited college, university, or vocational school.

Must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.25 GPA or higher for the duration of the individual scholarship award period. Provide official verification/transcript of a minimum 3.25 GPA for initial application and each subsequent qualifying semester.

Complete applications must include:

1. Complete SFCC Scholarship Application
2. Transcripts with cumulative GPA
3. Evidence of college acceptance or schools to which you have applied
4. One letter of recommendation. Only typed letters of recommendation are accepted. Letters of recommendation MUST be typed and signed by a high school faculty, teacher or counselor, a community leader, a direct supervisor, or SFCC leader who knows the applicant. It is recommended that your referee use an official letterhead and provide contact information. The referees should indicate the length of time and in what capacity they know the applicant.
5. A 500 – 750 word essay typed (single spaced, 11pt font) on an essay topic provided in the application.

THE CHINEDU VALENTINE OKOBI GRANT

The Chinedu Valentine Okobi Grant was named in honor of the late Chinedu Okobi who attended SFCC. He was a warm individual and was deeply concerned about the welfare of others. He believed in the best of everyone.

This grant is available for students pursuing vocational training, two-year degrees, or four-year degrees.

CHINEDU VALENTINE OKOBI GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be actively pursuing a vocational, two-year, or four-year degree program.
- Applicants must demonstrate financial need.
- Applicants should be members of San Francisco Christian Center or regularly involved in church activities.

*All application materials **must** be received by the due date.

**Incomplete or faxed applications will NOT be considered.

Mail completed applications to:

**San Francisco Christian Center
Attn: Scholarship Committee
5845 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94112**

Or email completed applications to

sfcc.scholarship@gmail.com.

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The successful applicants will be notified in writing and will be invited to attend the Annual SFCC Baccalaureate Service. **All awardees are required to participate in the annual Baccalaureate Service (either in person or virtually).** If unable to attend the Baccalaureate Service, awardees must submit a written explanation a minimum of two weeks prior to the service or risk forfeiture of the scholarship award.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AWARD DISBURSEMENTS

Awardees must submit **official transcripts** (sent in a stamped sealed envelope or emailed securely from an accredited institution to sfcc.scholarship@gmail.com) before award checks are issued. Faxed copies will not be accepted.

Scholarship awards will be disbursed in two (2) annual installments only **after** all requirements and qualifications have been verified. Award checks are typically mailed at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters/quarters.

CORRESPONDENCE

All questions or concerns addressing the Scholarship Committee must be received via email or in writing. All answers will be provided via email: sfcc.scholarship@gmail.com
Please refrain from contacting the Scholarship Committee to discuss matters by phone.

Cynthia Bell, Chairperson

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS & CRITERIA

1. Scholarships will be granted only for continued full-time (12 units or more) enrollment in an accredited vocational school, community college or four-year college/university. SFCC Scholarship Awards are awarded yearly, and successful applicants must either submit a new application or any subsequent renewal criteria for consideration and disbursement of funds as outlined.
 - a. The **Margaret Berry Award**: Eligible Continuing Education scholars may re-apply annually for up to six years to complete undergraduate studies.
 - b. The **Dessie Webster Memorial Scholarship Award** is a 4-year one time award. If eligibility requirements are not maintained the scholarship will be forfeited.
 - i. Dessie Webster Memorial Scholarship (DWMS) awardees are NOT required to submit a new application annually. However, DWMS recipients **are required to submit an annual update/report** (in addition to transcript submission) to verify their adherence to enrollment status and minimum academic requirements.
 - ii. Annual report forms will be made available to applicants by the SFCC scholarship committee.
 - c. The **Chinedu Valentine Okobi Grant**: is a need based on need and not on merit. Applicants may re-apply annually for up to five years to complete vocational or undergraduate studies. Recipients **are required to submit an annual update/report** to verify their adherence to enrollment status.
 - d. An 18-year-old applicant in his/her senior year of high school may apply as a SFCC Youth Member to meet the requirement of having current church membership status.
 - e. The Scholarship Committee will only evaluate completed scholarship applications and place a major emphasis on the following categories: **Essay, GPA (except for Chinedu Grant), volunteer/eligible extracurricular work, membership participation, and letters of recommendation.**
2. Book Awards are financial grants that are awarded to SFCC Scholarship recipients and/or applicants that may not meet all eligibility criteria qualifying for other SFCC Scholarship awards. (*Open to both undergraduate and graduate students*)
 - a. Book Awards will be awarded at the sole discretion of the Scholarship Committee to applicants attending an accredited college, university, professional, graduate, or vocational school.
 - b. Past awards have been given to students that held other responsibilities such as work or family and could not attend school full time. Also, non-member students have received awards because of their affiliation via their guardians, SFCC Missions Department or other SFCC sponsored programs. Book award values vary year to year and depend in part on the number of qualified recipients receiving SFCC Scholarship awards.



SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTIAN CENTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

(This application may be photocopied)

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

I am applying for the Dessie Webster Memorial Scholarship Award
(Applicant must be a high school senior with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25) - Unofficial transcripts accepted for application only!

I am applying for the Margaret Berry Award for Continuing Education
(Applicant must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75) - Unofficial transcripts accepted for application only!

I am applying for a Book Award for Continuing Education

I am applying for the Chinedu Valentine Okobi Grant

Unofficial transcripts accepted for application only!

Each question must be answered fully, and all required materials must be submitted, or the application will be considered INCOMPLETE. Incomplete, illegible, faxed, and late applications will not be considered.
DEADLINE: COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026, 4:00

Print or Type

Personal and Family Information

Title: Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Home Address _____

Guardian Name _____

Guardian Address _____

(All correspondence will be mailed or emailed to the above address unless otherwise instructed)

What other (if any) funds will you receive this year? (Specify amounts and sources):

List extracurricular activities and any volunteer/community service that you participated in the last year.

What course of study and/or occupation/profession do you plan to pursue?

High School Applicant Information

Name of High School _____

High School Address _____

Grade Point Average _____ (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) Graduation Year _____

Name of college(s) applied to:

Have you been accepted?

Declared Major/Minor _____

Continuing Education Applicant Information

(Answer questions with N/A if not applicable. First-time undergraduate students need not complete. Proceed to next section.)

Name of School _____ Major _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average _____ Number of Completed Credits/Units _____

Are you a transfer Student? _____ Academic year of transfer _____

What will be your academic level for upcoming school year? _____

Anticipated graduation date for current degree (month & year) _____

Did you receive an SFCC scholarship last year? _____ Type _____ Amount _____

Do you attend church while away at school? If so, provide the church name and address. If not attending church, please explain as to why:

San Francisco Christian Center Related Information

Type of San Francisco Christian Center membership: ___ Youth Member* ___ Member (Check one only)

*Youth Members are qualified to receive a one-time scholarship award. To qualify to receive future scholarship awards, applicants must become a member of SFCC. Contact the church office to learn about the New Members Orientation for dates and times of a modified New Members Orientation class for Youth Members that have attended SFCC long-term.

Date you became a member _____

(Month & Year) (DOB entries are not acceptable)

If you're not a member – Date you plan to complete orientation class _____

(1-yr SFCC membership required)

List SFCC activities or auxiliaries you participated in over the last two years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity/Auxiliary</u>	<u>Position Held?</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List any honors, awards, prizes, etc., which you have received last year (in school, church, employment, volunteer, etc.):

How would receiving an SFCC Scholarship be a benefit? (50 words or less):

Essay Topic(s):

Margaret Berry Award for Continuing Education *(Please choose ONE of the prompts to answer)*

- As a Christian and an average American citizen, how can you support our nation (United States of America) in pursuing the quote “IN GOD WE TRUST”. What is your action plan to achieve this goal?
- Academic goals are often not straightforward. How have you dealt with changes to your academic goals when a course correction or different approach has been necessary?

Dessie Webster Applicants Only *(Please choose ONE of the prompts to answer)*

- Why do you think it is important for all students to have equal access to higher education?
- How would you address the social injustice in America and implement safety measures in our communities (i.e. gun violence, terror, police violence etc.) How would you promote democracy in our nation and restore righteousness and peace within our nation?

Book Award Applicants Only *(Please answer the prompt)*

- How would you address the social injustice (i.e. gun control, terrorism, police violence, etc.) in the United States and implement safety measures and protections in our communities? How would you promote democracy in our nation and restore righteousness and peace within our nation?

Chinedu Valentine Okobi Grant Applicants Only *(Please answer the prompt)*

- What are your educational or vocational aspirations? Explain why this funding is essential in pursuit of those goals.

***All essays should be placed on the pages provided or attached in a separate document. (Please include your name and the prompt you choose for your essay).*

Scholarship Checklist:

- Read the Scholarship Information page before completing the SFCC Scholarship Application.
- Submit copy of acceptance letter(s) from College or Vocational School (High school applicants and transfer students only)
- Submit one (1) letter of recommendation: from a high school/community leader or SFCC leader.
- Submit Academic Transcripts (**unofficial transcripts are acceptable for the application ONLY**)
- Submit a 500-750 word essay.
- Provide proof of volunteer service in community, school setting, church or other setting.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Signature of Guardian _____
(for applicants under 18yrs of age)

Date _____



**SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTIAN CENTER
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ESSAY**

(Use the space below to complete your SFCC scholarship essay. Attach any additional pages)

Applicant name: _____

Applying for: _____

**SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTIAN CENTER
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ESSAY (cont'd)**

(Use the space below to complete your SFCC scholarship essay. Attach any additional pages)