Fuel the Future

2026 Scholarship Manual

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We are excited to have you apply and look forward to learning more about your journey!

This manual is designed to guide you through the application process, ensure your application is complete, and help you understand what to expect at each step.

1. Overview of the Scholarship Program

Live in Motion Foundation offers five competitive $20,000 Fuel the Future Scholarships to high achieving orthotics and prosthetics clinician students enrolled full time in an accredited O&P Masters degree program in the United States.

These scholarships also come with complimentary registrations for recipients to attend the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (AAOP) 2027 Annual Meeting and Scientific Sympoisum and the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) 2027 National Assembly.

2. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be enrolled as a full time student in a Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredited O&P Masters degree program
- Be a US citizen or legal permanent resident

3. Application Process

1) Prepare your materials

a) Author a (up tp 500 words) personal statement

- You must submit a personal essay of no more than 500 words describing how your presence in the orthotics and prosthetics profession will positively impact O&P care.

- Your essay should help reviewers understand who you are, what has shaped your interest in the profession, and how you hope to contribute as a future O&P clinician.

  You may discuss:

  - The experiences, values, or individuals that influenced your decision to pursue a career in O&P.

- The qualities, perspectives, or strengths you will bring to patient care.
- How you hope to improve patient experiences, access to care, clinical outcomes, or the profession.
- The needs, challenges, or opportunities within O&P that are especially meaningful to you.
- Your professional goals and the impact you hope to make throughout your career.
- How the Fuel the Future Scholarship would support your education and professional development.

Use specific examples whenever possible and write in your own authentic voice. Your essay should complement, rather than simply repeat, the information included in your resume and video.

Review your essay carefully for clarity, organization, grammar, and spelling before submitting. Do not include confidential patient information or identifying details. Essays that exceed the 500-word limit may not be reviewed in full.

b) Obtain one letter of recommendation

- You must request one letter of recommendation from a program director or faculty member in the O&P master's degree program in which you are currently enrolled.

- The letter should explain why you are a strong candidate for the Fuel the Future Scholarship and, whenever possible, provide specific examples addressing your:

  - Academic performance, intellectual curiosity, and work ethic.
  - Professionalism, character, empathy, resilience, and communication skills.
  - Leadership, service, volunteer involvement, or other meaningful contributions.
  - Commitment to orthotics and prosthetics and potential to positively influence patient care and the profession.
  - Distinctive accomplishments, experiences, perspectives, or qualities that set the applicant apart.

The request for recommendation is made through the online portal. You should notify the recommender that an email with a secure submission link will be sent. The letter must be submitted directly by the recommender by the application deadline.

You are strongly encouraged to make the request early, share these prompts in advance, and follow up with the recommender before the scholarship deadline.

c) Prepare a resume

- You must submit a current resume that highlights the experiences and qualifications demonstrating your potential to contribute to the orthotics and prosthetics profession.

Your resume should include, as applicable:

  - Your education, including your current O&P master's degree program and anticipated graduation date.
  - Employment, internships, clinical experiences, and other relevant work.
  - Volunteer service, community involvement, and professional activities.
  - Leadership roles and examples of initiative.
  - Research, presentations, publications, or academic projects.
  - Awards, honors, scholarships, and recognitions.
  - Professional memberships, certifications, and relevant skills.

List your experiences in reverse chronological order, beginning with the most recent. Use concise, action-oriented descriptions that emphasize your accomplishments and impact.

Upload your resume as a PDF and use a clear, professional, easy-to-read format. Review it carefully for accuracy, spelling, grammar, and consistent formatting before submitting. Do not include sensitive personal information such as your Social Security number, date of birth, marital status, or photograph.

- Tips for Scholarship Application Resume Writing.pdf

d) Prepare a video (2-3 min.)

- You must submit a 2-3 minute video that helps reviewers learn more about you, your experiences, and the impact you hope to make in the orthotics and prosthetics profession.

- Use your video to highlight educational, work, volunteer, leadership, or community experiences that demonstrate your potential to contribute to O&P. You may also discuss your personal strengths, perspectives, professional goals, and vision for your future in the profession.

  Your video should:

  - Provide specific examples of leadership, initiative, innovation, collaboration, resilience, or service.
  - Explain how your experiences have prepared you to contribute to O&P.

- Describe how you hope to positively influence patient care, access, outcomes, or the profession.
- Complement, rather than simply repeat, the information in your resume and personal essay.

Do not include confidential patient information, patient images, or identifying details. Before submitting, confirm that your video plays correctly, is accessible to reviewers, and meets the 2-3 minute requirement. Videos that exceed the time limit may not be reviewed in full.

- Tips for Creating a Scholarship Application Video.pdf

e) Obtain an official or unofficial transcript* (that includes the current academic semester) from your institution **GPA is considered in the scoring of applicants*

- Official transcripts are not required; however, unofficial transcripts must be signed by the Program Director or Faculty Advisor.
- Transcripts should include cumulative O&P Program GPA (if avaiblable).

2) Submit Your Application:

a) Complete the online application form in the online O&P Foundation portal.
b) Upload all required documents.
c) Request the Letter of Recommendation directly through the portal and notify you recommender.
d) Double-check your application for completeness.

3) Confirmation:

a) You will receive an email confirmation from the portal once your application has been successfully submitted.

4. Tips for a Strong Application

- Start Early: Give yourself plenty of time to gather materials, write your personal statement, and give plenty of lead time with your requests for letters of recommendation.
- Be Authentic: Share your unique story, challenges, and aspirations.
- Proofread: Ensure your application is free from errors and clearly written.

- Follow Instructions: Submit all required documents, adhere to word limits and pay attention to deadline dates and times.

5. Key Deadlines

- Application opens: August 25th, 2025
- Application deadline: September 22nd, 2025
- Notification of selection: By November 1st, 2025
- Award disbursement: Within 14 days of the scholarship notification

6. Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by external reviewers comprised of educators and clinical experts appointed by the Live in Motion Foundation Education Committee. Following external review, the Education committee conducts a programmatic review and selection.

1. Initial Review:
    - Applications are screened for completeness and eligibility.
2. Evaluation:
    - The Live in Motion Foundation Education Committee reviewers evaluate applications based on the requirements outlined in this manual.
    - Applications with a weighted total score > than a 80% will be considered for award.
3. Final Decision:
    - All applicants will be notified of the final decisions through the application portal.
    - Selected recipients will also be notified by email directly with an Award Letter, instructions for payment of scholarship funds, and details for the public annoucement.

7. Scholarship Funding & Details

- Scholarship funds are awarded directly to you and not to your school/institution.
- You should consult with your tax advsior to determine wether the scholarship is used in a way that is considered taxable income.

a) Tax-free Award

Scholarship funds are tax-free if you meet the following conditions:

- You are a candidate for a degree at an educational institution that maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly enrolled body of students in attendance at the place where it carries on its educational activities; and
- The funds are used to pay for tuition and fees required for enrollment or attendance at the educational institution, or for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at the educational institution.

b) Taxable Income

Report scholarship funds with your gross income if:

- Schoalrship funds are used for incidental expenses, such as room and board, travel, and optional equipment.

8. Public Announcement

- Scholarship recipients will be publicly recognized on the Live in Motion Foundation website, social media, and in a press release.
- You are required to sign a media release form, submit a high resolution headshot, a brief bio, and a quote to be included in these announcements.
- Publicity efforts are intended to celebrate the your achievements and promote the scholarship program.

9. Communication and Contact Information

- **When creating an application in the portal, please use your personal email, do NOT use an academic email.** Academic emails expire upon graduation and we want to stay in touch with you!
- You will be registering with our payment servicer, Bill.com to select your payment preferences.
- For any questions or assistance, please email us at info@liveinmotion.org
- With any assistance or support inquires during the application period, please allow 48 to receive a response or for the issue to be resolved.

10. Frequently Asked Questions

- How do I know if my application was received?

You will receive a confirmation email upon submission.

- How do I find out my application status?

You can log in anytime to the application portal or to track progress of your application.

- Can I submit my application late?

No, late applications will not be accepted.

- What if I don't get a letter of recommendation submitted in time?

No late submissions of any kind will be accepted, please make your requests early in the applictaion process and follow up on your requests!

- Can I apply for scholarships more than once?

Yes, you can!

- What if I am not getting emails from the portal?

Check your spam or junk folder, please adjust setting so that you can receive portal emails, for more info, see our portal faq's.

- What if I don't get a letter of recommendation submitted in time?

Your application will still be reviewed but will be scored according to the submission materials missing

We wish you the best of luck with your application and look forward to supporting your educational journey in O&P!