

ALUMNI CLUB LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS 2026-27

October 8, 2026



PURDUE FOR LIFE
FOUNDATION

Success from 2025-26

■ Incoming Freshmen Applications

- 1,515 applications submitted
- 115 awarded
- \$209,890 awarded

■ Current Student Applications

- 515 applications submitted
- 80 awarded
- \$156,690 awarded

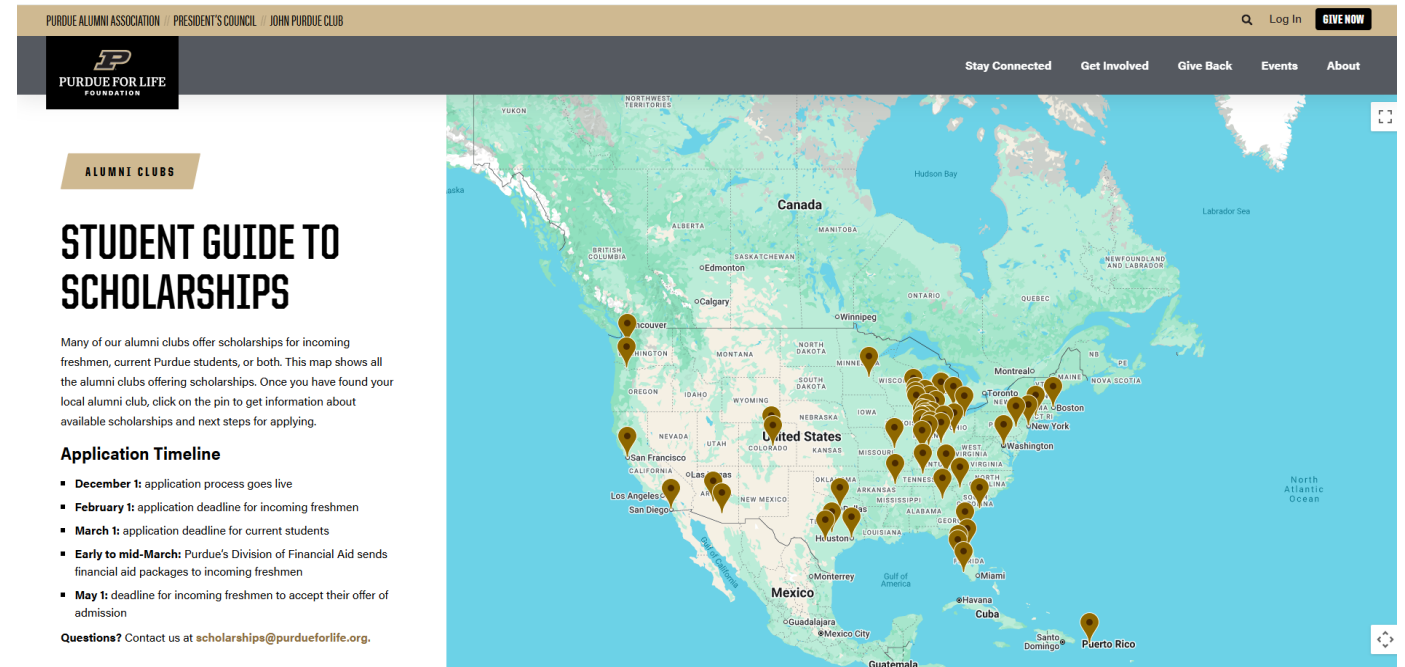
■ Totals

- 2,030 applications
- 195 awarded
- \$376,580 awarded

The Impact Continues to Grow: With new initiatives planned this year, we anticipate continued growth in scholarship applications and encourage you to prepare for increased review activities.

New This Year

- **Student Guide to Scholarships**
 - New look
 - Can be found under Get Involved/Student Opportunities
 - Interactive with links to application
- **Online application form**
 - Testing begins October/November
 - Go Live date 12/1

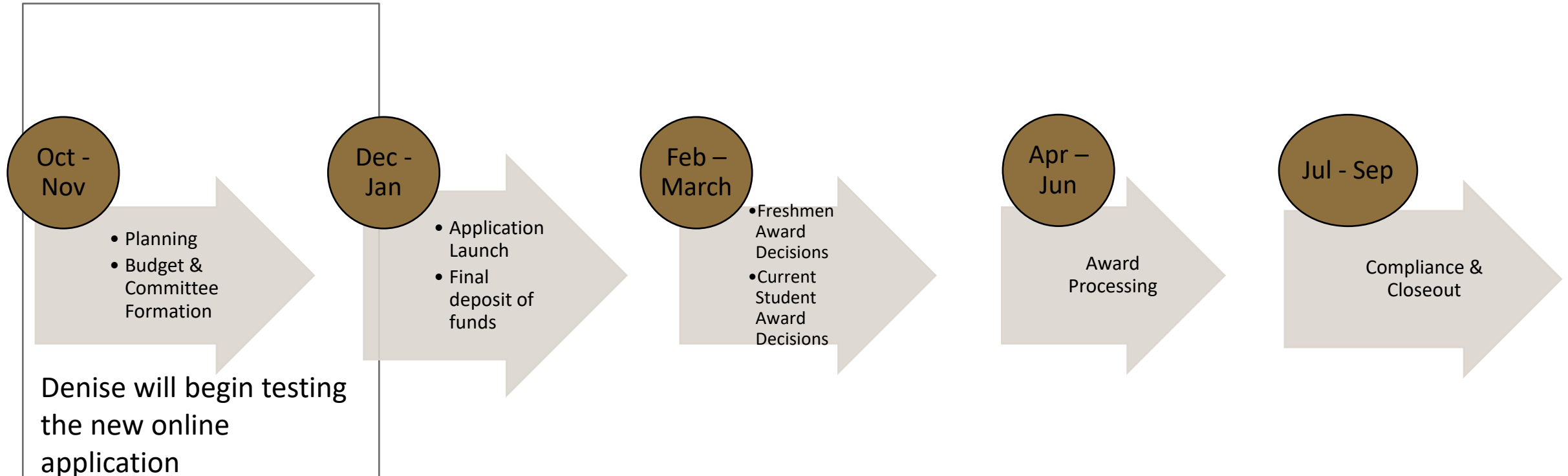


Resource Folders and Files (Denise will share with chairs and/or presidents by 10/16)

- Document with designation numbers and awarding criteria
- Blank rubric scoring sheet
- Student Guide to Scholarships Flyer
- Flyers w/QR codes to donate to your fund
- Copy of this slide deck

Purdue Alumni Clubs Scholarships 2026-27

Timeline Overview



Purdue Alumni Clubs Scholarships 2026-27

Key Club Action Dates

-  **October-November:** Set scholarship budget and award amounts;
Finalize committee members
-  **February 12:** Freshman award selections due
-  **March 19:** Current student award selections due
-  **May 11-14:** Review any enrollment-related scholarship adjustments

Prepare Your Scholarship Funding

Fund for Growth

- **Review your support account balance and fundraising plans to ensure your club can support additional scholarship awards.**
 - As application volume continues to grow, position your club to make a greater impact by maintaining adequate funding and exploring opportunities to increase scholarship support.
 - **Plan Ahead:** While funds may be deposited through January 15, we encourage clubs to submit deposits as early as possible to support timely scholarship awarding.
- **Review the DFA award projections that will be shared with you in November.**
 - Use these projections to evaluate whether your current funding levels align with anticipated scholarship demand.
 - Determine and submit the number of scholarships and award amounts your club plans to offer for the upcoming academic year by 11/30.



PRO TIP: Planning ahead helps minimize budget adjustments, ensures funding is available, and streamlines the award process.

Prepare Your Scholarship Committee for Reviews

- Confirm that your scholarship committee has the capacity, timeline, and processes needed to efficiently review and award scholarships.
 - The application review period is short, typically just **5-7 days** from application distribution to decision submission.
 - Confirm committee members are available during the review window (e.g. PTO, travel, etc.)
 - Ensure you have adequate members to fairly evaluate all applications.
 - Verify that committee members can access applications through Microsoft OneDrive
 - Notify the Clubs team in advance if alternative file-sharing methods are needed to avoid review delays.
 - Establish a plan for completing reviews and submitting decisions on time.
- Submit your committee by **11/30** using this link:
https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cD7rfbVMFFfWfxl

Scholarship Process – Greater Boston Alumni Club example



**ALUMNI
CLUB**
Scholarships

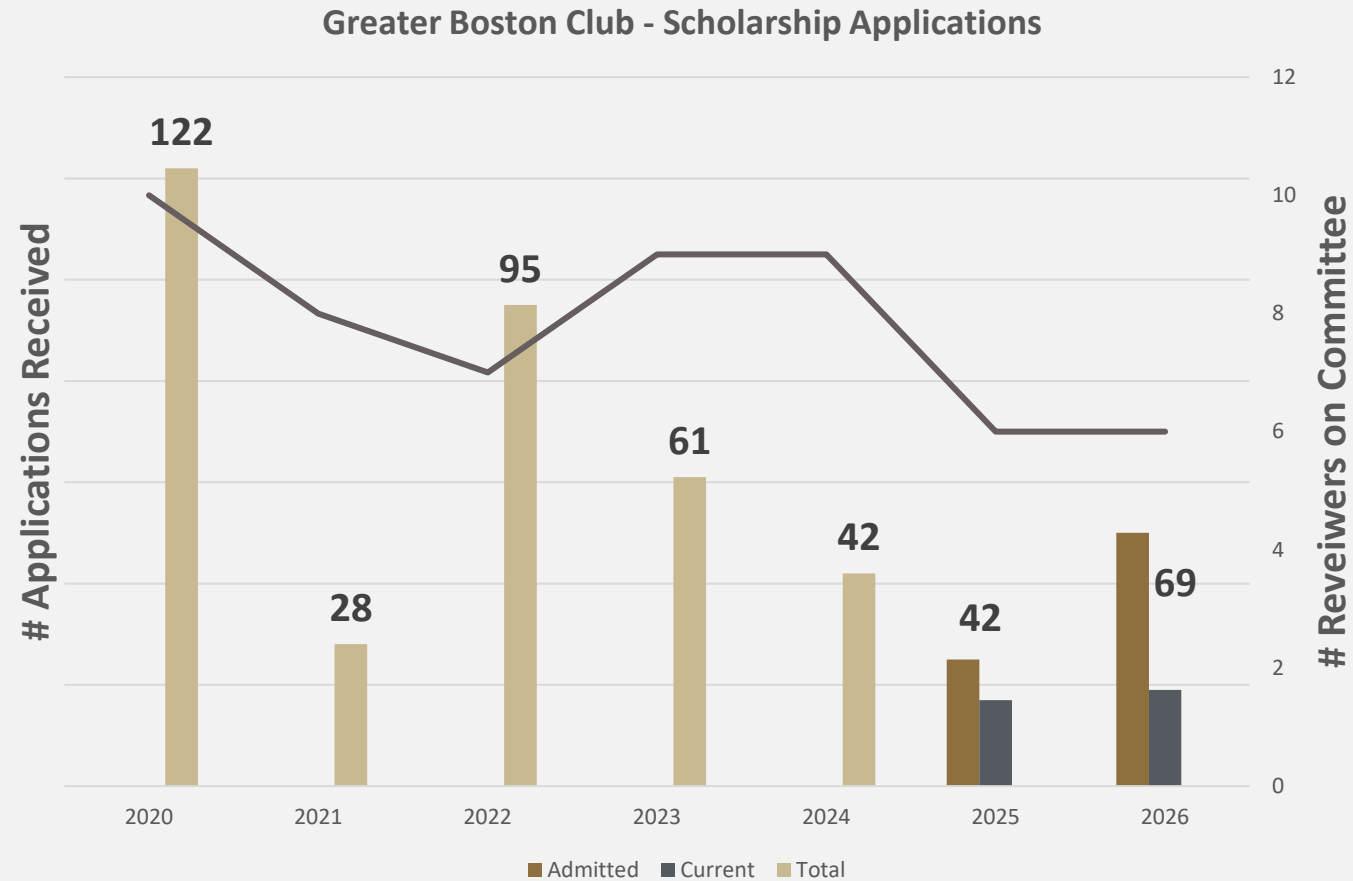
Thursday, Oct 8

Raj Melkote



Greater Boston Club Scholarship - History

Robust tradition, consistent set of reviewers...



Application Review Process

ID	Group	Student Name	Ethan Edwards	Karey Kelly	Emily Isgur	Raj Alkote	Sue Paradis	Uma Sehler	Aggregate Score	Std Dev	Min/Max Range	Comments - Reviewer 1	Comments - Reviewer 2
1	1	Boiler 1	6	42					24.0	25.5	36	Unprofessional punctuation, named RPI not Purdue in work experience goals. Did not follow	
2	1	Boiler 2	33	46					39.5	9.2	13	Robotics / mechE / Bechtel interest. Some responses were repetitive, noted classes interest	
3	1	Boiler 3	26	46					36.0	14.1	20	Lacked clear leadership experience / no work. Lacked personal connections and compelling	
4	1	Boiler 4	33	49					41.0	11.3	16	Had lot of extracurriculars but was not communicated well the true extent of involvement	
5	1	Boiler 5	39	48					43.5	6.4	9	Extracurriculars has lots of info and seems like higher hours and responsibility. Work experience	
6	1	Boiler 6	37	47					42.0	7.1	10	Did not know about the US Congressional Bronze Medal, unique way to go above and beyond	
27	2	Boiler 27			36	30			33.0	4.2	6	Varied reasons for why Purdue but could flow	Impressive extracurriculars. Somewhat generic
28	2	Boiler 28			40	41			40.5	0.7	1	Started some clubs and lead some, thought through why	Strong extracurriculars with descriptions + reasons
29	2	Boiler 29			33	24			28.5	6.4	9	Lead groups in activities, why Purdue could benefit	Reasons for applying all related to clubs / activities
30	2	Boiler 30			35	33			34.0	1.4	2	Not a lot of leadership in activities, solid why	Extensive extracurriculars (ran out of space);
31	2	Boiler 31			31	23			27.0	5.7	8	No leadership in activities, why Purdue could benefit	Very brief, generic answers to all essays
32	2	Boiler 32			38	44			41.0	4.2	6	Good why Purdue statement, solid impact statement	Strong extracurriculars (gives a sense of the person)
33	2	Boiler 33			40	42			41.0	1.4	2	Leadership experience, thought through why	Strong extracurriculars--mix of leadership & personal
34	2	Boiler 34			35	34			34.5	0.7	1	Activities but not leadership positions, why could	Strong extracurriculars (w/descriptors); listed
35	3	Boiler 35					44	49	46.5	3.5	5		Very well written and impressive! Just not the
36	3	Boiler 36					35	48	41.5				
46	3	Boiler 46					35	49	42.0				
47	3	Boiler 47					39	45	42.0				
48	3	Boiler 48					29	44	36.5				
49	3	Boiler 49					42	47	44.5				
50	3	Boiler 50					33	44	38.5				
		Reviewer Means:	29.8	45.9	35.4	32.5	37.1	46.0					

- Prepare overall tally sheet – applicant names (alphabetical) vs. reviewers
- Each application gets read by at least 2 reviewers
- Divide into Groups (typically 3) – keep it manageable for each reviewer
- Use free software to split application package into Groups

Application Scoring

Organizing / leading vs. just participation

How creative / personal is the response? Does student demonstrate knowledge of Purdue beyond what's available on the website?

Look for a personal story...beyond the obvious financial angle

How well-defined are the student's goals? Have they chosen a field consistent with their values / passion?

Did the student take time to proofread and/or spell check? How is the written style? Does it look like the student used AI tools?

Make notes here as to what differentiates the application. This is also where you can capture any of the "additional" information the student is asked to optionally provide at the end

		(1 - 10)	(1 - 10)	(1 - 10)	(1 - 10)	(1 - 10)		(50 max)
ID	Applicant Name	Strength of Extracurriculars and Work Experience	Why did you choose to apply/attend Purdue?	How will this scholarship impact you?	What are your educational goals, and how will Purdue prepare you for success?	Grammar / language	Comments	Total score
1	Boiler 1							0
2	Boiler 2							0
3	Boiler 3							0
4	Boiler 4							0
5	Boiler 5							0
6	Boiler 6							0
7	Boiler 7							0
8	Boiler 8							0
9	Boiler 9							0
10	Boiler 10							0

Don't be afraid to be tough!

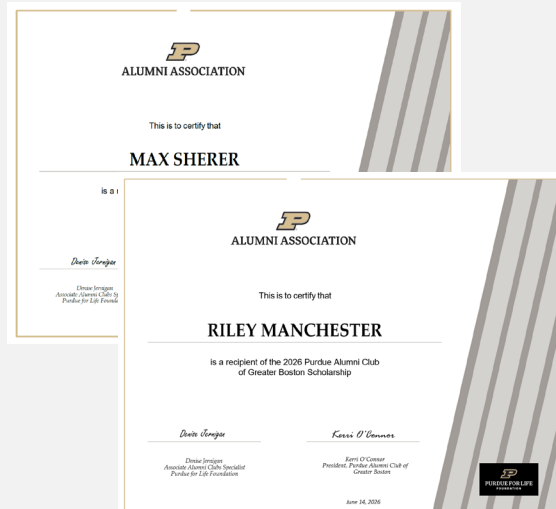
Application Score Tallying

ID	Group	Student Name	Ethan Hawkins	Carol Hickman	Emily Isgur	Raj Kulkarni	Karey Kelly	Siddharth Kannir	Sue Paradis	Tanvi Sawant	Uma Schehler	Aggregate Score	Std Dev	Min/Max Range	Comments - Reviewer 1	Comments - Reviewer 2	Comments - Reviewer 3
40	3	Boiler 38							40	40	39	39.7	0.6	1	great details for all sections	very passionate, detailed, extracurriculars support educational goals, written extremely well	A little long winded on some of his responses, but impressive activities and plans for his future.
18	2	Boiler 35				36	39	37				37.3	1.5	3	Deep dive into community service	Hospitality, minor finance, business	She has vision and knows how to execute
21	2	Boiler 12				36	38	37				37.0	1.0	2	Meaningful extracurriculars (f	aerospace engineering, sax, robotics, jazz band, mentor,	
39	3	Boiler 39							33	39	37	36.3	3.1	6		very passionate, detailed, extracurriculars	Stating future goals would have been more specific
32	3	Boiler 49							32	37	38	35.7	3.2	6		detailed, passionate	organization of answers could have been better
31	3	Boiler 10							32	35	37	34.7	2.5	5		Very specific in all answers, so good	grammar- Purdue
23	2	Boiler 5				33	40	30				34.3	5.1	10	Extracurriculars list is so extensive	tennis, skiing, math robotics, Music, choir, pilot, specifics on leadership	
26	2	Boiler 24				28	39	36				34.3	5.7	11	Gives a lot of detail about community service	Freshman, soccer, coaching, accounting, CPA, Visit?	
37	3	Boiler 42							30	36	36	34.0	3.5	6	great extracurricular details	very specific in all answers, excellent	Goals are not very clear, and lack of detail
14	1	Boiler 44	38	30	33							33.7	4.0	8	Extensive list of coding/hacking projects	Impressive extracurriculars. Very detailed	Why choosing Purdue is solid. Good
42	3	Boiler 6							29	36	36	33.7	4.0	7	founded a non profit	less detailed as the questions asked	He may not have English as his first language
17	2	Boiler 9				36	34	30				33.3	3.1	6	Extracurriculars read like a laundry list	why PU generic, goal: phd in engineering, importance of community service	
28	2	Boiler 40				28	38	X				33.0	7.1	10	Impactful extracurriculars (Sea Cadet, etc)	Sea Cadet Chief, crew captain, Mecantronics/Robotics, MA in leadership	
3	1	Boiler 43	31	35	32							32.7	2.1	4	A strong list of extracurriculars	Robust answers. Displayed leadership	A LOT of activities but some were not as detailed

- Force rank by aggregate score
- Check for reviewer bias (chair reads top applications to confirm)
- Feel comfortable with 2nd and 3rd ranked scores as alternate winners (if top ranked recipient does not commit to Purdue)

Awards Announcement...the Final Step

Leverage “Student Sendoff” event



Plan Your Scholarship Promotions

- **Promote early and often.**
 - Use the Student Guide to Scholarships flyer provided by the Clubs Team at events, on social media, in newsletters, and in outreach to local schools and guidance counselors.
 - Contact alumniclubs@purdueforlife.org if you'd like social media templates to use for posts.
 - Consider establishing a regular social media posting schedule and adding scholarship information or links to club communications throughout October-March.
- **Develop a promotion strategy**
 - Feature scholarship information in newsletters
 - Add scholarship reminders and Student Guide to Scholarships links to club emails by including them in the final paragraph or as a footer through the Additional Notes section of email and event requests.
 - Share often on social media (contact alumniclubs@purdueforlife.org if you'd like templates to use)

Plan Your Scholarship Promotions

- **Tips from Ken Kitts, Boone County Club President, on promoting your scholarship with local schools.**
 - Additional information on their blind evaluation process and on avoiding conflicts of interest.



Important: When promoting scholarships to prospective students and families before admission decisions have been released, please ensure your messaging reflects that the scholarship and admissions processes are separate.

Please keep the following in mind:

- **Scholarship applications are reviewed separately from undergraduate admissions.**
- **Applying for a scholarship does not influence admission decisions.**

Action Items by Month - October

- **DFA begins building the budget projection reports for each scholarship.**
 - The projection represents the estimated funding available for scholarship awards in the upcoming academic year.
 - DFA develops scholarship funding projections using the October 31 support account balances, scheduled awards, historical giving trends, anticipated endowment income, and other expected contributions.
- **Begin promoting the upcoming December 1st live application date on social media**
- **Display the Student Guide to Scholarships flyer at all events and game watches and reach out to local high schools.**

Action Items by Month - November

- **Submit your Committee Members via Qualtrics by November 30**

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cD7rfbVMFFfWfxl

- **DFA funding projections and available balances:**

- **November 30:** Decide how many scholarships you will award and the amount of each award.
- **November 30:** Submit your scholarship award plan to scholarships@purdueforlife.org
- Plan fundraising efforts to support your award goals. (Funding for this academic year must be deposited by January 15.)



Pro tip: Award plans submitted by November 30 help ensure accurate budgeting and a smoother award process for both your club and Purdue for Life.

Action Items by Month - December

- Application goes LIVE December 1st
- Be sure to promote the application on social media by sharing the Student Guide to Scholarships flyer or creating posts using social media templates (you can request these at alumniclubs@purdueforlife.org)
- Display the Student Guide to Scholarships flyer at all events and game watches
- Promote your scholarship by adding application information in the Additional Notes section of all email and event requests (as a closing paragraph or footer)
- Continue fundraising efforts to support awards (final date to deposit funds Jan 15th)

Action Items by Month – January

- Jan 15th FINAL DAY to deposit scholarship funds for the upcoming academic year.
- Jan 15th Admissions decisions released
 - Do another push on application promotion, as parents and students will again be actively looking for funding.
 - Connect with local high schools and guidance counselors
- Jan 15th – 17th
 - There will be a post on the official Purdue for Life social media account, congratulating Admitted Students. Please share on your Club's social media accounts.
 - Purdue For Life will email all admitted students and parents.
- **NOTE:** Contact your scholarship committee before February to:
 - Review key application, evaluation, and award deadlines.
 - Verify committee members can access OneDrive and download application materials.
 - Confirm availability during the review period and avoid scheduling conflicts that could delay award decisions.
 - Identify technology or scheduling challenges early so you can address them before applications are released.

Action Items by Month - February

- **February 1:** Deadline for admitted freshmen to submit their applications to PFLF
- **February 2-5:** PFLF team will begin distributing qualifying applications to clubs awarding to admitted freshmen
- **February 15:** Clubs submit award decisions for admitted freshmen
 - Submit a minimum of 5 alternates (up to 10 alternates recommended) to accommodate students declining their offers to attend Purdue
- **Continue promoting application to current students and parents**

Action Items by Month

March

- **March 1:** Deadline for current students to apply
- **March 2-5:** Clubs team will distribute applications to clubs, awarding to current students
- **March 19:** Clubs submit awarding decisions.
 - Submit a minimum of 5 alternates to account for reduced or removed awards in August

Congratulations

You did it!

You've completed the scholarship review process. The Clubs team will take it from here.



Suggested Action: While everything is still fresh, consider scheduling a final debrief with your committee to discuss successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement next year.

Post Awarding Info

Dates to Remember and Next Steps

- 📌 May 1st Deadline for admitted students to accept Purdue's offer of admission
- 📌 May 10th Clubs team will verify enrollment of freshmen scholarship recipients
- **Check your email during May 11-14th** - PFLF (Denise) will notify clubs of changes to awards due to non-enrollment.
- 📌 Mid-June Financial aid notifications will be sent to current students.
- **Check your email during August** - DFA finalizes all financial aid reviews. Clubs team will review all awards and notify clubs of any changes or reductions in awards.

Best Practices to Follow



- **Treat all deadlines as firm.**
 - The awarding timeline is compressed, and delays at any stage can impact student awarding, financial aid processing, and the ability to re-award funds when needed.
- **Plan for continued growth in application volume.**
 - Application numbers have increased significantly and are expected to continue growing.
- **Consider increasing both the number and size of awards.**
 - As applicant pools grow and student financial need continues to rise, evaluate whether additional awards, larger award amounts, or a combination of both would better support Purdue students. (this also could influence a new student's decision whether to attend Purdue)

Best Practices to Follow



- **Build scholarship budgets early.**
 - If your club plans to increase award amounts or add awards, begin fundraising and budget planning well before the January 15 funding deadline.

- **Recruit enough committee members to handle application volume.**
 - More applicants require more reviewers to maintain fair, thoughtful, and timely evaluations.

- **Schedule review and decision meetings before applications arrive.**
 - Establish review deadlines, committee discussions, and final selection meetings early to ensure decisions can be submitted on time.

Best Practices to Follow



- **Be ready to begin reviews immediately upon receiving applications.**
 - Have your review process, scoring rubric, and committee assignments finalized in advance.
- **Submit decisions as early as possible.**
 - Waiting until the deadline increases the risk of delays and limits the flexibility needed to address questions, corrections, or alternate selections.
- **Select a strong alternate pool.**
 - Alternates are critical to ensuring scholarship funds are fully awarded and utilized.
 - For freshman scholarships, identify at least 5 alternates. 10 is strongly recommended. This is where most adjustments usually happen because of non-enrollment.
 - For current students, identify at least 5 alternates.

Scholarships Promotion Plan

Purdue for Life

Email communications

- *November:* Promote Alumni Club scholarships to current students and parents; applications open December 1.
- *January:* Promote scholarship opportunities to newly admitted students and parents.
- *February:* Remind current students and parents of the March 1 application deadline.
- *Ongoing:* Outreach to student organizations.

Social Media Posts

- Right after January 15: Celebrate admitted students and promote Alumni Club scholarship opportunities to admitted and current students.

Alumni Clubs – Suggestions

- Scheduling regular posts on social media. Include:
 - Application announcements, deadline reminders, and scholarship impact highlights.
 - Recipient success stories
- Display the Student Guide to Scholarships flyers at all your events and game watches.
- Include application information in club newsletters.
- Request that scholarship information be added as a footer or last paragraph in email/event requests by noting it in the Additional Notes section of your request.
- Share application opportunities within your personal and professional networks.
- Engage with local high schools and at local events.
- Mention club scholarships everywhere you go. Even if they can't apply for your scholarship they may qualify for another club.

Opportunities

- Refer a Student: Help Admissions connect with prospective students who may be interested in learning more about Purdue University by completing the new Alumni Referral Form
- Encourage students to visit the Scholarship Stewardship Microsite to thank Purdue scholarship donors for the scholarships they received. They can share their inspiring stories by submitting:
 - An Impact Survey
 - A Student Bio
 - A Thank You Video
 - A Project or Research Summary/Abstract



THANK YOU!

