



2011 Class of Daniels Scholars

THE 2011-2012 DANIELS SCHOLARSHIP

STUDENT GUIDE

In establishing the Daniels Scholarship, Bill Daniels wanted to seek out young leaders who demonstrate character, honesty, and a personal commitment to service. The Daniels Scholarship Program is unique in many ways. Daniels Scholars aren't expected to have perfect grades, what we look for is potential. Daniels Scholars are chosen for their willingness to work hard, their strength of character, their passion to succeed, and their commitment to giving back to their communities. The Daniels Fund awards hundreds of scholarships each year to promising students across our four-state region. The Daniels Scholarship Program is both exciting and challenging, and we encourage you to read on to see if a Daniels Scholarship might be right for you.

Who Can Apply?

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for a Daniels Scholarship, students must satisfy all of the following:

- Be nominated by a designated Referral Agency (see www.danielsfund.org for a list).
- Be a current high school student expecting to graduate during the 2011-2012 academic school year from any high school in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming.
- Be a current resident of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming.
- At the time of application, be a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident of the U.S., or have refugee or asylum status in the U.S.
- Demonstrate financial need (see "What is Financial Need?").
- Take the ACT by October 22, 2011 and achieve an exam composite score of 17 or higher, or take the SAT by October 1, 2011 and achieve a combined math and critical reading score of 830 or higher.

Daniels Scholarship Application Deadline: Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011 4:00 p.m., Mountain Standard Time

What is Financial Need?

The Daniels Scholarship is a supplemental scholarship. As such, the Daniels Fund works in partnership with Daniels Scholars, their families, higher education institutions, and federal and state financial aid resources to help financially support students to achieve a four-year college degree.

One of the primary eligibility criteria for the Daniels Scholarship is financial need. The Daniels Fund determines financial need by evaluating a number of factors, including the applicant family's income, assets and family size. However, the most important factor used to determine an applicant's financial need is his or her family's ability to pay toward the cost of college. This ability, often referred to as the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), is calculated and determined for the Daniels Fund by the College Board, a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity.



Determining Your Financial Eligibility

In general, a family of four, with one child in college, and a family income of up to \$50,000 has a reasonable chance to be financially eligible for the Daniels Scholarship. Conversely, a family earning more than \$75,000 is probably not financially eligible. While these are general rules, the Daniels Fund evaluates all applicants on an individual basis.

The Daniels Fund uses a College Board tool to determine an applicant's financial eligibility for the Daniels Scholarship. In general, a family with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) between \$0 and \$5,500 is likely to be financially eligible for the Daniels Scholarship. However, the Daniels Fund reserves the right to examine a number of factors in making the final determination of an applicant's financial eligibility. The Daniels Scholarship Program reviews its threshold for financial eligibility on an annual basis.

The College Board offers a calculator to assist families in estimating their EFC. Before beginning their application, we encourage applicants to use the calculator to determine if they are likely to be financially eligible for the Daniels Scholarship. A link to the College Board calculator, as well as important tips for using it, are included below.

http://apps.collegeboard.com/fincalc/efc_welcome.jsp

Tips for using the College Board EFC Calculator:

- Have previous year tax returns available for parents and applicant (if applicable)
- Website navigation tools are at the bottom of each page
- When you come to the step prompting you to "Pick a Formula" select Institutional Methodology formula (IM)
- Completing the EFC Calculator should take approximately 15 minutes.
- Keep this information for your personal records — this is not something Daniels Fund will request from you.

Should you need further guidance regarding financial eligibility for the Daniels Scholarship Program, please contact the Daniels Fund.

How Do I Apply for a Daniels Scholarship?

- **First you need a nomination** – To be eligible to compete for a Daniels Scholarship, you must be nominated by a designated Referral Agency. Referral Agencies are high schools and youth serving organizations that have been selected to participate in the Daniels Scholarship nomination process. For a list of designated Referral Agencies in each state, visit www.danielsfund.org. You may receive only one nomination from one Referral Agency. A nomination is not a guarantee that you will be awarded a scholarship.
- You cannot be nominated by a Referral Agency where someone related to you is employed. You can, however, be nominated by a different Referral Agency. If the Daniels Fund becomes aware of a situation where this policy prevents a student from being nominated, we will evaluate the situation to determine if an exception is warranted. This occurs most often in rural areas where there are limited Referral Agencies to nominate students.
- **Apply online** – The Referral Agency nominating you will provide you with details on how to access the online application. Please note: You will need a personal e-mail address to complete the application. You will also need the name and e-mail address of the Referral Agency representative who nominated you. **All online applications must be submitted by Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 4:00 p.m., Mountain Standard Time.** It is important to understand that the application takes time to complete and also includes several essay questions, a nomination, and two additional recommendations from someone who knows you well. Do not wait until the last minute to apply. You are not required to complete the online application all at once, but once you click “submit,” no changes can be made.
- **If you are selected as a semifinalist** – After applications are received, semifinalists will be selected in January. If you are selected as a semifinalist, you will be invited to participate in an interview with a group of community volunteers from your area. You will also be asked to provide additional documentation by mid-February including official copies of academic transcripts, ACT/SAT exam results, copies of **2011** income tax information (including W-2 forms, IRS tax forms, etc.), and a copy of your U.S. birth certificate, passport, or other certified documentation showing you are a permanent resident, or have refugee or asylum status in the U.S.
- **Final scholarship awards** – Final scholarship awards will be announced in late April.

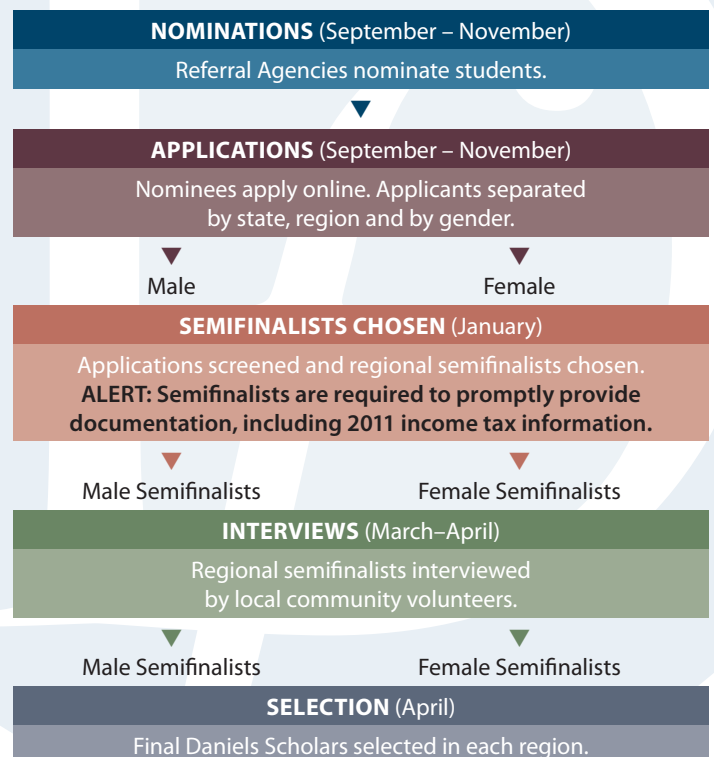


How Are Daniels Scholars Selected?

Selection Criteria

Daniels Scholars are selected through a community-based process. First, Referral Agencies (high schools and youth serving organizations) that work in each local community nominate eligible candidates. Then, following an application and screening process, semifinalists are selected. Semifinalists participate in interviews which are conducted by local community volunteers in each area. Eligible applicants are evaluated based on the following:

- Strength of character
- Leadership potential and emotional maturity
- Potential to contribute to one’s community
- Well-rounded personality
- Academic performance or promise



Fast Facts About the Daniels Scholarship

- Daniels Scholarships may be used at any two- or four-year, not-for-profit accredited college or university in the U.S. Students must intend to complete a bachelor's degree.
- The Daniels Fund strongly encourages students to apply to college by the end of December 2011. Please note that the Daniels Scholarship can only be used at one of the schools listed in the student's Daniels Scholarship application. In other words, students may not apply to a new school once they are awarded a Daniels Scholarship.
- Daniels Scholarships are not full-ride. Instead they cover the unmet needs of the student. The scholarship amount is determined after all other financial aid sources and an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) have been applied. Amounts are different for each student and can change from year to year.

Example Scholarship Scenario

Cost of Attendance	\$25,000
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	\$4,000
Other Scholarships and Financial Aid	\$10,000
Daniels Scholarship	\$11,000

- Scholarships cover all or part of a student's required college expenses (i.e., tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and miscellaneous educational expenses).
- Daniels Scholarships are annually renewable up to a maximum of four academic years (8 semesters or 12 quarters) if the recipient: 1) is making satisfactory academic progress as verified by college transcripts, and 2) complies with the terms and conditions of the scholarship.
- Daniels Scholars are required to hold jobs during the school year to continue receiving their scholarships. The minimum work requirement is 125 hours during the first year and 250 hours during all other years.

College Choice

Whether or not you receive a Daniels Scholarship your final college choice should be thoughtfully considered by you and your parent/adult supporters. Here are just a few areas you should think about as you make your final decision:

Academics

- Does the school offer the major you are most interested in studying?
- Does the school offer 1 or 2 alternative majors that interest you in case you change your major?
- What type of academic and career advising does the school provide?
- Do you know the difference between the core/general education requirements and the requirements for your major in order to graduate?

Affordability

- Does the school's financial aid award offer sufficient financial support?
- Would you be able to attend and afford this school if you were not ultimately selected as a Daniels Scholar?

General

- Is the school located in an area that provides access to various types of public transportation?
- Does the campus and surrounding community offer sufficient employment opportunities for students?
- Does the campus or surrounding community have some of the organizations or establishments (such as your church denomination) that may help ensure your success?
- Does the campus offer housing options during holiday breaks or summer vacation?
- Does the school offer health insurance?

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For More Information

Additional information about the Daniels Scholarship is available at www.danielsfund.org.

If you have questions about the scholarship program or need help with the application process, please contact the Daniels Fund at:

E-mail: scholarselection@danielsfund.org **Phone:** 303-393-7220 (main) or 1-877-441-3139 (toll free)