Frequently Asked Questions
For *Voices of Hope* Scholarship Applicants

Thank you for your interest in applying for a Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation *Voices of Hope* Academic Scholarship. The Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation (SBTF), founded in 1995, operates as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and a public charity. Unified by the words "you have a brain tumor," our Board members and staff work diligently to provide Support, Hope, and encouragement to those who are united by the exact words. Some of us are brain tumor patient survivors, others of us are patient caregivers, and others of us live with the pain of having lost a family member to brain cancer. We provide funding for brain tumor research and other support programs by issuing research and educational grants. Our primary mission is to improve the quality of life for brain tumor patients and their families and advance the discovery of curative treatments. Read more at sbtf.org

The purpose of our *Voices of Hope* Academic Scholarship Program is to provide an individual who has been directly impacted by a brain tumor diagnosis or the diagnosis of an immediate family member, with the opportunity to pursue a post-secondary education at an accredited College, University, or Technical school located in one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia. Student applicants can enroll online, in person, or through both methods.

Voices of Hope Academic Scholarships are made possible through the generosity of donors like yourself. Donations provide an educational opportunity to those who might not have otherwise been able to pursue a post-secondary education. Donations may be made to the general *Voices of Hope* Scholarship fund, or donors have the opportunity to fund a named *Voices of Hope* Academic Scholarship in honor or memory of an individual(s) impacted by a brain tumor diagnosis.

Below is a short list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding our *Voices of Hope* Academic Scholarship. To learn more about being a *Voices of Hope* scholarship donor, please visit the SBTF Scholarship page at https://sbtf.org/scholarship/ or email us at scholarships@sbtf.org.

Q. What is the minimum scholarship award amount?
A. $1,500.

Q: How are scholarship funds disbursed?
A: The Scholarship awards are distributed in the form of a check made payable to and delivered directly to the Scholarship/Financial Aid Office of the accredited post-secondary institution of higher education attended (or to be attended) by the Scholarship Recipient. Funds will be disbursed when the Scholarship Recipient has proven enrollment in an accredited United States post-secondary educational program located in one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia and has submitted proof of enrollment to the SBTF included in the Scholarship Application. The Scholarship may not be assigned, transferred, or changed except at the sole discretion of the SBTF. No cash equivalent prize or monies will be awarded.

Q: If I am pursuing a professional degree, am I eligible to apply?
A: Yes, however, the applicant must be a legal resident of the United States who is enrolled in a post-secondary education at an accredited College, University, or Technical school located in one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia.
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Q: Am I eligible to apply if I am pursuing an associate, technical, or graduate degree rather than an undergraduate degree?
A: Yes, however, the applicant must be a legal resident of the United States who is enrolled in a post-secondary education at an accredited College, University, or Technical school located in one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia

Q: When is the annual deadline for submitting my *Voices of Hope* Academic application?
A: The submission deadline is 5:00 pm ET on April 30th.

Q: Does every applicant receive an award?
A: Applicants are not guaranteed a *Voices of Hope* Scholarship.

Q: How will I be notified if I win an award?
A: The SBTF will email award notifications from scholarships@sbtf.org on or before June 15th. If you receive an award, you will have until June 22nd of the current calendar year, 5:00 PM EST, to submit the requested information noted on your award letter. We will not be sending out reminders. Your award will be forfeited if the requested information is not sent by that deadline. There will be no exceptions.

If you are awarded, in your notification letter, you will be asked for the acceptance letter or current class schedule, scholarship/financial aid office mailing address, website address link for the office, direct phone number, and student ID number of the school located in one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia. You are strongly encouraged to research and collect this information after you submit your application and during the award notification waiting period to ensure you have it on hand.

Q: How should my academic institution expect the award funds if I am awarded?
A: The Foundation will issue award monies addressed to the individual academic institutions in the last week of June. Based on banking, USPS mailing, and institution timelines, your school should

receive the funds by the last week of July. If your payment has not been applied to your student account by July 31st, please email scholarships@sbtf.org.

Q: May I apply for more than one scholarship annually?
A: No.

Q: Are the scholarship funds distributed to the student directly?
A: Scholarship award monies are remitted to the accredited post-secondary institution where the student is enrolled and must be located in one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia. Funds are NOT distributed directly to the student.

Q: Will you reissue the award check to another institution?
A: The Scholarship award is granted exclusively to the original recipient and is not eligible for assignment, transfer, or reallocation to another individual under any circumstances. In the event the recipient withdraws, transfers to another institution, changes enrollment status, defers attendance, or otherwise alters their academic plans, the Scholarship award will be forfeited and may not be reinstated, redirected, or applied to a different term, program, or institution. Any such change will render the award null and void.

Q: Can I change the institution listed on my scholarship application after I submit it?
A: The school identified on the scholarship application must be the exact institution to which the award payment is issued. No exceptions will be made. For example, an applicant may not indicate attendance at Georgia State University on the application and later request that the scholarship payment be sent to the University of Georgia.

Q: Can my application be submitted via post (e.g., U.S. mail)?
A: No; the application must be submitted via the Google Docs form. All submissions must be RECEIVED on or before April 30th by 5:00 PM EST.

Q: What is the composition of the Scholarship Selection Committee?
A: The Scholarship Selection Committee comprises SBTF Board members, SBTF volunteers, and Scholarship donors.

Q: Why is it necessary to submit documentation of my Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) or my Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?
A: Applicants must upload the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of those contributing to the applicant's educational expenses which may include you, your spouse, your biological or adoptive parent, or your parent's spouse. Please mask personal information such as Social Security number, home address, and phone number for your personal data security. You can submit your AGI from a federal tax return or the AGI from your FAFSA Application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), and the SBTF will delete such documentation within 45 days of submission. This information is factored into scoring.

Q: How are the scholarship award recipients selected?
A: The SBTF uses a scoring system to review scholarship applications.

Q: Do I qualify if I have <u>not</u> been diagnosed with a brain tumor?
A: Applicants must have been directly impacted by a brain tumor diagnosis, either personally or through an immediate family member. Immediate family members include: child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, spouse, former spouse, sibling, cousin, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law. This definition also encompasses relationships through adoption or guardianship.

Q: Can I utilize artificial intelligence (AI) to formulate my essay responses on the application?
A: To uphold academic integrity and encourage students to develop their own critical thinking and writing skills, artificial intelligence (AI) tools—such as ChatGPT, Grammarly AI, and other text-generating software—are **strictly prohibited**. We use AI detection software and if your application is in violation of our policies, it will be disqualified without notice.

Prohibited Actions Include:
- Using AI to generate, edit, or enhance essay responses.
- Copying and pasting AI-generated text into any submitted work.
- Using AI to rephrase or restructure existing text for submission.

Consequences of Violation:
- Any use of AI in essay responses will be considered **academic dishonesty**.
- All applications are run through a program to detect if AI has been used.
- If an application is found to have used AI, it will be **automatically disqualified without notice**.

Acceptable Assistance:
- Tools for spell-checking and grammar correction that do not create content are permitted.