

2026 Ortega Foundation Scholarship Fund | Application Guidelines

Deadline: Sunday, March 29th at 11:59 p.m.

Students notified by May 6th

Annual Award Amount: Up to \$7,000

History

The Ortega Foundation established the Ortega Foundation Scholarship Program in honor of its founder Jose Antonio Ortega, Sr. Jose Antonio believed strongly in giving academically accomplished individuals the opportunity to pursue a college education. Scholarships are awarded to Miami-Dade County high school seniors with a GPA of 3.5 or above. The Ortega Foundation will award up to **\$7,000** a year for a four-year scholarship. If awarded, scholarship funds may be applied toward your institution's official cost of attendance

Submission + Deadline

Applications must be submitted online by **Sunday, March 29th at 11:59 p.m.**

Applicants must submit an application through the Miami Foundation's scholarship portal. To access the online portal, visit miamifoundation.org/scholarships.

Please be advised that The Foundation cannot accept mailed, faxed or emailed applications. Review your application carefully and ensure that it is filled out completely.

****These funds can only be used for undergraduate level studies**

Eligibility

In order to qualify, applicants must:

- Be a resident of Miami-Dade County
- Be a high school senior graduating in Spring 2026
- Have a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.5

Selection Criteria

A Scholarship Advisory Committee will review and rate the applications and make final decisions on scholarship awards. The following criteria will be considered in evaluating applicants:

- Academic Achievement
- Financial Need
- Essay Questions
- Letter of Recommendation
- Short Personal Video
- Personal Statement Essay

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For questions about this worksheet please contact scholarships@miamifoundation.org.

This is a template of the application that shows the information you will need to submit online. Mailed, emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted. Use this as a worksheet to gather the information you will need to provide online. To submit your application, go to scholarships.miamifoundation.org for more information on how to apply.

We recommend that you complete all questions that have character count limits in a word processing program first, paying careful attention to the character count limits - which include spaces - and then copy and paste your responses into the online application.

Personal Information:

Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:	
Date of Birth:			Gender:		
Address:					
Preferred Phone Number:					
Email Address:					

College Information:

Please list the colleges or universities to which you have applied (up to six) and indicate for each one "Accepted" or "Not Accepted." Here is the format that will appear online:

_____ Accepted / Not Accepted

College or university you plan to attend for the upcoming school year. If undecided, please state "Undecided":

Major you are pursuing: _____

High School Academic Information:

Name of High School currently attending: _____

Weighted High School GPA: _____

Unweighted High School GPA: _____

GED Score (if applicable): _____

Provide your highest score on either the SAT or ACT. Write the test name and score: (e.g. SAT ##### or ACT ##)

Financial Need:

What is the anticipated tuition for one year at the college or university you plan to attend? \$ _____

Estimated Room and Board Cost

What is the estimated room and board cost for one year at the college or university you plan to attend? If you will be living at home or have other no-cost arrangements write "0". _____

Total Cost of Attendance for the college or university of your choice _____

Please provide your family's estimated combined annual income: \$ _____

Household Member Size: Adults 18 and over _____ Children under 18 _____

Number of members who will be enrolled in higher education (full-time) in fall 2026 (including yourself): _____

Have you submitted a 2026-27 FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*)? Yes / No

If yes, please UPLOAD your FAFSA 2026-27 Summary Report

Have you received a Financial Aid Award Letter from the college or university you plan to attend? Yes / No

If yes, please UPLOAD your Award Letter

Have you applied for/received other forms of financial aid? Yes / No. If yes, please list:

Name of Financial Aid (Scholarship, Federal grants/loans, etc.)	Amount	Status: (Awarded, Not Awarded or Pending)
	\$	
	\$	

Activities and Employment

Use the space below to respond to the following questions. **There is a 1,000 character limit, including spaces, for each question.**

- School and Volunteer Activities:** Please list in chronological order the extracurricular activities you have been involved in while attending high school. Leave a line space between each activity.
- Work Experience:** Please list in chronological order any work experience you have had while attending high school. Leave a line space between each job position. If this does not apply to you put "Not Applicable."

Essay Questions + Video Link:

These questions below will be used to help the selection committee learn who you are and what motivates you. We'd like to get to know you better. Please be honest and authentic with your responses. **There is a 1,000 character limit, including spaces, for each question.**

Please choose three of the following five essay prompts to respond to. Each response should reflect your personal experiences

- Can you share a time when you faced a significant challenge or obstacle? How did you handle it? What did you learn from that experience?
- If you are involved in any community service or volunteer activities? What do you enjoy most about it? How has your involvement shaped your perspective on the world?
- Have you ever pursued a passion project or creative endeavor outside of school? What was it, and what did you learn from the experience?
- What global issues do you feel passionate about, and why?
- If you had the opportunity to bring any person – past or present, fictional or nonfictional – to your hometown, who would you bring and why? Tell us what you would share with that person.

Other Required Attachments to be uploaded online along with the application:

- Link to Video:** Create and upload into the scholarship portal a two-minute video introducing yourself to the scholarship selection committee and telling them what you are looking forward to the most in your freshman year in college. Be as authentic as possible.

- **Letter of Recommendation:** Please submit **at least one** letter of recommendation. Upload as a single PDF document. The letter should speak to your academic achievements and primary strengths.
- **Personal Statement Essay:** Please submit the personal statement essay that you have provided in your college applications.
- **Unofficial Transcript:** Please upload an unofficial transcript as a single PDF. Do not send the transcript separately.

Other: How did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

Certifications: In submitting the online application you certify the following:

- 1. Financial Aid Displacement:** I understand that an award at this time may affect the financial aid package provided by my college or university. I certify that I have consulted with my school's Financial Aid Office to gather any pertinent information to ensure that if I were to receive an award it would not reduce the amount my school would contribute under its aid package.
- 2.** I certify that all the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by any authorized official of The Miami Foundation, I agree to give documentation for information given on this form. I realize that this proof may include a copy of a U.S. tax return. I realize that failure to comply with a request for further information may prevent the applicant from being considered. I understand that the financial information will be confidential, for review solely by The Miami Foundation and selection committee.