

# 2025-2026 APPLICATION INFORMATION



It's hard to imagine a world without plumbers, carpenters, electricians, and other skilled tradesmen and women who ensure water is flowing from our faucets, that we have shelter from the elements, the lights are on and more. Our world will always need important people like you in our workforce!



## ABOUT THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE SCHOLARSHIP

Ascendium doesn't want the cost of tools, clothing, equipment, or other expenses incurred as an apprentice to stop you from reaching your career goals. It's why we're offering \$2,000 scholarships to eligible construction and industrial trade apprentices enrolled in one of the 16 colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System.

## HOW TO APPLY

Complete an application online at [TOTTscholarshipapplication.com](https://TOTTscholarshipapplication.com).

### You are eligible to apply if:

- You are enrolled in and receiving credit from one of the 16 Wisconsin Technical College System colleges for both Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters. Apprentices who graduate or complete their program in Fall 2025 are not eligible.
- You are enrolled in an eligible construction or industrial trade program (see a list of eligible trades on the application).
- Your combined household income is less than or equal to three times the federal poverty level (the application will calculate this based on information you provide about your household income and the number of people in your household).
- You submit a completed application online by November 21, 2025.

We'll send all communication regarding your application to the college-issued email address you provide in your application. We will communicate with your college to confirm your Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 enrollment, which is required to be eligible for this scholarship.

If the number of eligible applicants is greater than the number of available scholarships, we will use a random drawing as a fair mechanism to determine who receives an award among eligible applicants. We will notify apprentices of award status in February 2026 and will mail checks to scholarship recipients at the address you provide in the application.

## QUESTIONS

Email [TOTT@ascendiumeducation.org](mailto:TOTT@ascendiumeducation.org) or call us at 1-866-327-2140.

# 2025-2026 APPLICATION INFORMATION

## YOUR COLLEGE AND TRADE

Please answer the following questions which determine your eligibility to apply for the Tools of the Trade Scholarship Program.

**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM SCHOOL** Select the college you are currently attending (select one). Only the schools listed are eligible.

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackhawk       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeshore      | <input type="checkbox"/> Moraine Park        | <input type="checkbox"/> Northwood           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chippewa Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Madison        | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicolet Area        | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Valley      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-State      | <input type="checkbox"/> Northcentral        | <input type="checkbox"/> Waukesha County     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gateway         | <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Wisconsin   |
- I am not enrolled in an apprenticeship program through Wisconsin Technical College System.

### ELIGIBLE CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL TRADES

Select the program you are enrolled in for the Fall 2025 semester and plan to enroll in the Spring 2026 semester. Only the trades listed are eligible.

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bricklaying/Mason                    | <input type="checkbox"/> HVAC   | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Mechanic/<br>Millwright             | <input type="checkbox"/> Resilient Floor                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Electrician                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Technician                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Roadway Maintenance<br>Technician              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cement Mason                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Manufacturing<br>Technician       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechatronics Technician                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Roofer   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CNC Machine Operator                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Metrology<br>Technician           | <input type="checkbox"/> Millwright–Pipefitter                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheetmetal–<br>Industrial or Construction      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Building<br>Inspector     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Shipbuilder Welder                | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Engineer/<br>Heavy Equipment Operator | <input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler Fitting                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Finishing                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Injection Mold Set-Up<br>(Plastic)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting & Decorating                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Steamfitting–<br>Construction or Service       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drywall Finisher                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumentation                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Patternmaker                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Steamfitter Mechanical<br>Drafter              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical & Instrumentation         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ironworking                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pipe Fabricator                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications VDV<br>Installer Technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrician                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lubrication Technician                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pipefitter                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Welder-Fabricator                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Service<br>Technician  | <input type="checkbox"/> Machine Repair                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Plumber   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities Maintenance<br>Technician | <input type="checkbox"/> Machinist/Tool & Die/<br>Moldmaker/Toolmaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Set-Up Operator                           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glazier                              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Wirer                               |   |
- I am not enrolled in any of these programs.

**I CERTIFY THAT I AM ENROLLED IN THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM INDICATED IN THIS APPLICATION DURING THE FALL 2025 SEMESTER AND PLAN TO BE ENROLLED IN THE SPRING 2026 SEMESTER AS WELL.**

- Yes    No

# 2025-2026 APPLICATION INFORMATION

## YOUR INCOME

Please answer the following questions about your household income and the number of people in your household. Together, these questions determine your eligibility for this scholarship.

The following table provides information on the maximum weekly income, by household size, that is allowable to qualify for this scholarship (i.e. your weekly household income must be this amount or less in order to qualify).

HOUSEHOLD SIZE:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
MAXIMUM WEEKLY INCOME TO QUALIFY:	\$903	\$1,220	\$1,538	\$1,855	\$2,172	\$2,489	\$2,807	\$3,124	\$3,441	\$3,759	\$4,076	\$4,393	\$4,711	\$5,028	\$5,345

### HOW MUCH DO YOU EARN EACH WEEK FROM ALL JOBS YOU HOLD CURRENTLY (COMBINED, BEFORE TAXES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS)?

Locate on your pay stub the amount you are paid before taxes and other deductions.

If you are paid every two weeks, you divide the pre-tax and pre-deduction amount by two to get your total weekly income. If you are paid monthly, divide the amount by four. Enter 0 if you are not currently working. Round to the nearest whole number.

DOLLARS PER WEEK

### HOW MUCH DO OTHER ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS (THAT IS, FAMILY MEMBERS 18 YEARS OR OLDER) IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD EARN EACH WEEK FROM ALL JOBS THEY HOLD CURRENTLY (COMBINED, BEFORE TAXES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS)?

Locate on pay stubs from other adult family members the amount they are paid before taxes and other deductions.

If paid every two weeks, divide the pre-tax and pre-deduction amount by two to get total weekly income. If paid monthly, divide the amount by four. Enter 0 if no other adult family members in your household are currently working. Round to the nearest whole number.

DOLLARS PER WEEK

**PLEASE CONFIRM THAT THE WEEKLY COMBINED INCOME FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD (YOUR OWN WEEKLY INCOME PLUS THE WEEKLY INCOME OF ANY OTHER ADULT FAMILY MEMBERS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD) IS \$[XXXX]** (The survey platform will calculate this number by summing the applicant's two prior responses.)

Yes  No

**HOW MANY FAMILY MEMBERS LIVE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD? THIS IS YOUR HOUSEHOLD SIZE. PLEASE INCLUDE YOURSELF IN THIS COUNT.**

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

## PREVIEW OF APPLICANT CONSENTS

The rest of the application asks various questions about you and your apprenticeship experience. The potential uses of the information you provide in this application are to (1) verify your enrollment with your college, (2) share information with colleges, local media, or other partners who support Ascendium in raising awareness about the scholarship and apprenticeships, (3) understand the impact of the scholarship program through an external evaluation, which may include a voluntary survey in 2026.

Before submitting the application, you will need to review and approve three separate consents. You will be asked to review and approve towards the end of this application.

# 2025-2026 APPLICATION INFORMATION

## YOUR INFORMATION

Please answer the following questions about yourself, including where you live and contact information. Your name, address, email, and phone number will be used to get in touch with you about potential questions about your application, to contact you in the future for a voluntary survey about your apprenticeship experience, and to mail your scholarship check if you become a scholarship recipient. Your student ID, social security number, and date of birth will be used to link to the various data needed to verify eligibility for the scholarship and to inform the evaluation of the scholarship program.

NAME (First, Middle, Last - example: John Quincy Smith)

ADDRESS (If selected to receive an award, this is the address to which a check will be sent.)

CITY

STATE/TERRITORY

ZIP

PHONE (XXXXXXXXXX Format - example: 3215559876)

DATE OF BIRTH (MM DD YYYY Format - example: 01 01 2000)

COLLEGE-ISSUED STUDENT ID

PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS (one you check most frequently)

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (XXXXXXXXXX Format - example: 123456789)

## MORE ABOUT YOU

The following questions are about you and help us understand the characteristics of the individuals applying for this scholarship. Your answers to these questions are optional and have **no impact** on your scholarship eligibility or scholarship award.

**RACE AND ETHNICITY** What is your race and/or ethnicity? Please select all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                            | <input type="checkbox"/> White   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American        | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not identify with any of these races/ethnicities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino               | <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to answer                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern or North African  |  |

**GENDER IDENTITY** Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or in some other way?

- A man  
 A woman  
 In some other way  
 I prefer not to answer

**ARE YOU THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A CHILD UNDER 18?**

- Yes  No  I prefer not to answer

**HAVE YOU EVER SPENT TIME IN A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY LIKE A JAIL, PRISON, OR A JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER?**

Your answer to this question, like all the other questions in this section, has no impact on your scholarship eligibility or the scholarship award. Ascendium encourages individuals with a history of incarceration to apply.

- Yes  No  I prefer not to answer

# 2025-2026 APPLICATION INFORMATION

## YOUR APPRENTICESHIP JOURNEY

We are interested in understanding where you are in your apprenticeship journey and whether or not you have applied for or received a Tools of the Trade scholarship in the past.

Responses to these questions **are** required, but they have **no impact** on your eligibility for the scholarship or scholarship award.

**IN WHAT YEAR OF YOUR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM ARE YOU CURRENTLY ENROLLED?** If you're not sure, please provide your best guess.

- First year of program   
  Third year of program   
  Fifth year of program  
 Second year of program   
  Fourth year of program

**WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO COMPLETE YOUR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM?** If you're not sure, please provide your best guess.

MM     YYYY

**ARE YOU STILL WITHIN THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?**

- Yes   
  No   
  I'm not sure

**HAS ANYONE YOU ARE CLOSE TO, LIKE A FAMILY MEMBER OR CLOSE FRIEND, EVER COMPLETED AN APPRENTICESHIP?**

- Yes   
  No   
  I'm not sure

**HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR A TOOLS OF THE TRADE SCHOLARSHIP BEFORE THIS TIME?**

- Yes   
  No   
  I'm not sure

**HAVE YOU RECEIVED A TOOLS OF THE TRADE SCHOLARSHIP AT ANY TIME?**

- Yes   
  No   
  I'm not sure

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE EVALUATION INFORMED CONSENT

Ascendium Education Group (Ascendium) has partnered with researchers from Mathematica in Princeton, NJ to conduct an evaluation of the Tools of the Trade (TOTT) scholarship. The evaluation will answer important questions about what types of learners apply for and receive the scholarship and how well the scholarship supports learners in their apprenticeship journey. The evaluation will include all eligible TOTT scholarship applicants who consent to participate in the study, even if they do not receive a scholarship.

## WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE EVALUATION?

The evaluation seeks to understand the extent to which the TOTT scholarship improves a variety of outcomes for apprentices, including things like completion of apprenticeship program and apprentices' future labor market outcomes.

To address this question, the evaluation will compare outcomes for apprentices receiving the scholarship to those who do not receive the scholarship. Ascendium has committed to providing approximately 800 scholarships for this scholarship year. If the number of eligible applicants is larger than the number of available scholarships, a random drawing will be used to determine who receives a scholarship among eligible applicants. The random drawing is administered by a computer and works like a flip of a coin—assignment to a group is random. All applicants who are deemed eligible for the scholarship based on the application process will be included in the random drawing, regardless of whether they decide to opt out of the evaluation after submitting their application.

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## WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED ABOUT ME?

If you agree to be part of the evaluation, it means you are giving permission for Ascendium, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), and your college to share information about you with the researchers for the research purpose described above and only for that purpose. Researchers will take all necessary precautions to protect the privacy of your individual information. In all evaluation analyses, researchers will combine your information with that of others in order to understand the impacts of the scholarship program on apprentices as a whole. Your demographic information and information about your progress in your apprenticeship program will be used to understand the extent to which apprentices, including groups of apprentices who have different characteristics, may benefit from the scholarship. Your social security number and contact information such as your name and email address will be used to match your data across datasets from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, including but not limited to unemployment insurance datasets, and records from the WTCS colleges. By signing this consent, I am authorizing the Division of Unemployment Insurance to release to Mathematica the complete record of my unemployment insurance wage earnings and new hire data on my record. This authorization expires 10 years after the date signed. The information from these databases on your employment and earnings and participation in apprenticeships will help the researchers understand the extent to which the scholarship may positively impact apprentices' future career paths. The researchers may request the information listed through the end of the research study.

Within the study period, the researchers may contact you to request that you complete a voluntary, online survey about your apprenticeship experience and your future economic well-being.

## HOW WILL MY PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

All information collected for the evaluation will be kept private to the fullest extent of the law and used for research purposes only. All data will be kept secure, and the researchers will not share your individual data with entities that do not already collect or have access to your individual data, including Ascendium, your college, state or federal officials, or anyone else outside of the research team. Your name and other personal information will never be used in any reports or other products made public through this evaluation. Instead, information about you will be combined with information about other people in the evaluation, so researchers can describe the overall effects of the TOTT scholarship on apprenticeship journeys and participants' experiences.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE EVALUATION?

You will not benefit personally from participating in this evaluation, but your participation in the evaluation could help improve the scholarship program in the future for other apprentices like you. The primary purpose of this evaluation is to understand the benefits of the scholarship and to improve the scholarship and how it is administered to maximize benefits for apprentices.

There are very minimal risks associated with participating in the evaluation. Although researchers will take many steps to protect all information collected as part of the evaluation, there is a very small risk that non-researchers could see it. The survey that will be administered in the future is voluntary, and you can skip or refuse to answer any survey question.

# 2025-2026 APPLICATION INFORMATION

## WILL I RECEIVE ANYTHING FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE EVALUATION?

You will not receive a token of appreciation today, but you will receive a \$5 electronic gift card pre-incentive and a \$20 electronic gift card for completing a voluntary survey that may be sent in future.

## HOW CAN I WITHDRAW FROM THE EVALUATION?

By submitting your application, you are agreeing to participate in the evaluation. While we hope you will want to continue participating in the evaluation after applying for your scholarship, your continued participation in the evaluation is voluntary. Withdrawing from the evaluation will not affect your chances of receiving a scholarship. You are eligible to receive a TOTT scholarship even if you withdraw from the evaluation, and if you are awarded a scholarship and then withdraw, you can still receive it. We plan to ask Wisconsin Technical College System, your college, and federal and state agency databases for information beginning in 2025. While you can withdraw from the evaluation at any time, if you drop out of the evaluation after any of this data is collected, you are authorizing researchers to use information that was collected about you before you dropped out.

To withdraw from the evaluation, you must email or call the Project Director, Julie Bruch at [TOTTScholarship@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:TOTTScholarship@mathematica-mpr.com) or 844-306-1458 to confirm that you no longer want to participate in the evaluation.

## WHO CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS EVALUATION?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, email the Project Director, Julie Bruch at [TOTTScholarship@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:TOTTScholarship@mathematica-mpr.com).

This evaluation is being overseen by an Institutional Review Board ("IRB"). An IRB is a group of people who perform independent review of research studies. You may email them at [info@hmlirb.com](mailto:info@hmlirb.com) if you are not getting answers from the research team, or you want to talk to someone else about concerns you have about the evaluation. A copy of this consent language will be emailed to you at the college-issued email you provided after you submit your application.

### Please indicate whether or not you agree to participate in the Tools of the Trade Evaluation.

- I have reviewed the consent form for the Tools of the Trade Evaluation and agree to participate in the study.
- I have reviewed the consent form for the Tools of the Trade Evaluation and **DO NOT** agree to participate in the study. I understand by not agreeing to participate, I will not be eligible to submit an application for the scholarship.

### I give Ascendium authority to share information from this application with Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) campus staff for the purposes of enrollment verification.

- I consent

### If awarded a TOTT scholarship, I give Ascendium authority to share my name, college, and apprentice program information with my college, local media, legislators, and other partners who help Ascendium raise awareness about the scholarship and apprenticeships.

- I consent

**By submitting this application, I certify that the information provided is true and correct in all material respects as of the date of submission.**