

We.careTM Scholarships

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the Western Digital Scholarship Program administered?

Western Digital partners with organizations including Scholarship America and ATIDIM to identify students fitting our applicant profile, process applications, award scholarships, and provide support services to scholarship recipients. Funding for our scholarship programs is provided through the Western Digital Fund, a corporate advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Is the We.care Scholarship different from the Western Digital Scholarships for STEM?

Yes. We.care Scholarships are intended for Western Digital employee dependents.

Is the scholarship application only in English?

Yes.

Can parents apply for the We.care scholarship on behalf of their dependents?

No. We.care Scholarships are strictly for eligible Western Digital employee dependents. Applications received from a Western Digital employee or submitted with a “@wdc.com” email address may be disqualified per IRS regulations.

Can students use the Western Digital login credentials (SSO) of their parents to access the scholarship application?

No. Dependents do not have company login access, so SSO is not appropriate for this program. When a new user wants to access the application, the first step is to register with Scholarship America. Applications submitted with a “@wdc.com” email address may be disqualified per IRS regulations.

If a student already has a Scholarship America account, do they have to create a new account to access the We.care Scholarship?

No. Applicants with a Scholarship America account can use the same account login combination for the We.care Scholarship. However, please note that applicants must first use a special link (<https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/westerndigital-wecare/>) to access the We.care Scholarship before logging in.

Who qualifies as a dependent?

Dependent children are defined as biological, step- or legally adopted children living in the employee’s household or primarily supported by the employee.

What are the scholarship amounts?

Scholarship amounts vary based on location and budget. The maximum scholarship award will be \$5,000 US dollars for the 2022-2023 school year.

What are the eligibility criteria for We.care Scholarships?

- Legal dependent* of a regular, full-time Western Digital employee with an employee level of 109 or below, or be a member of our manufacturing staff (levels 201 – 207) as of the application deadline.
**Dependent children are defined as biological, step- or legally adopted children living in the employee's household or primarily supported by the employee.*
- Undergraduate student enrolled (or planned to be enrolled) on a full-time basis at an accredited college/university for the entire upcoming academic year.
- Preference will be given to students with a 3.0 on GPA on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent).
- All majors are eligible to apply
- Due to GDPR policies on data transmission we are unable to accept applications from residents and/or citizens of the European Economic Area this year. Students from all other regions are eligible to apply.

What are the criteria for selection?

- Academic excellence as demonstrated by GPA and rigor of coursework
- Demonstrated leadership in extracurricular and/or community activities
- Quality of application and personal statement

What majors are eligible?

For We.care Scholarships, applicants may be studying any major.

What schools are eligible?

Accredited four-year universities are eligible schools.

Are We.care scholarships considered competitive scholarships?

Yes. Because We.care Scholarships are limited to the dependents of Western Digital employees and not considered compensation or an employee benefit, the IRS provides strict rules around the percentage of scholarships that may be awarded annually. These rules limit the number of awards to 25% of the eligible applicant pool.

What degrees do the scholarships support?

We.care Scholarships support students pursuing undergraduate (B.A. or B.S.) degrees in all majors.

What year in school must students be?

Scholarships are awardable at any point in the university's progress including incoming freshman and transfer students (i.e., available to freshman, rising seniors, etc.).

When does the application open?

January 24, 2022

When is the application due?

3:00 PM CST on March 31, 2022

When will awards be announced?

By May 31, 2022

When will scholarship payments be disbursed?

For scholarship recipients attending college in the U.S., payment is issued by check in early August. For scholarship recipients attending college outside of the U.S., payment is issued by wire transfer in September.

Does Western Digital process the scholarship payments?

No. Scholarship America processes scholarship payments on behalf of Western Digital.

How many students can apply per household?

There are no restrictions on the number of students per household who may apply.

Who will select the scholarship awardees?

In order to assure fairness in the selection process as well as adherence to IRS rules, Western Digital will have no access to the applications submitted. Awardees will be determined by our third-party partner based on the established eligibility and selection criteria.

Who will see the application information?

Western Digital will not have access to information provided on the application until after all award decisions have been made. Applications and financial information will be reviewed ONLY by our third-party partner Scholarship America.

Is the We.care Scholarship considered compensation from Western Digital?

No, scholarships awarded are not considered compensation from Western Digital.

How will the scholarship be paid out?

Scholarships will be paid in one lump sum. For U.S. recipients, checks will be issued in August to the recipient's mailing address and made payable to the institution on the application profile page. For international recipients outside of the U.S., funds will be wired by the end of August directly to the recipient's college/university and made payable to the institution on the profile.

Will funds be paid to students or schools?

The recipient of the funding (student vs. school) will vary by country. In nearly all cases, funding will be made payable directly to the school to be credited to the student's account. This will only be altered in cases where local laws require other procedures.

Can a student be disqualified from receiving other scholarships if they receive a Western Digital Scholarship?

Students are encouraged to verify the selection criteria of all scholarships they are applying to; this includes, but is not limited to, university and merit scholarships.

Can students reapply if they've already been awarded a scholarship?

Yes. Past recipients are encouraged to reapply; however, previous awardees may only receive the scholarship for one additional year; for a lifetime maximum of two Western Digital scholarships.

Are there country restrictions for We.care Scholarships?

Due to GDPR policies on data transmission we are unable to accept applications from residents and/or citizens of the European Economic Area this year. Students from all other regions are eligible to apply.

Who should be contacted if a student needs help filling out the application?

Scholarship America will be able to provide support and assistance. Please contact them at: westerndigital@scholarshipamerica.org.

Which school should students list on the application if they have not made a final decision?

Students should list their first choice. Before scholarships are awarded, students will be asked to confirm their final school choice.

Whose contact information should be included in the application?

The applicant, not a Western Digital employee.

How will students be notified about the status of their application?

Students will be notified by email and through their Scholarship America applicant portal.