



## 2017-18 Education Grants

What are your dreams for your future?

Filmmaker, salon owner? Doctor or engineer? Plumber? Millwright?

Whatever your dream, Blandin Foundation believes in your success.

### Education Grants are for you

Blandin Foundation gives Education Grants – \$1,000 to \$4,500 each year – so you can get the training you need for the future you want.

These grants are for every Itasca area student who wants a better future. You don't have to be the top of your class, or an athlete, or on the yearbook staff.

Blandin Foundation Education Grants can help you “fill the gap” between the cost of your chosen school, and the amount you or your family can afford to pay.

### What schools can I go to?

You can go to any accredited program anywhere in the United States – including online.

- community college
- tribal college
- certificate program
- college
- university

### You can apply if you are

- Under age 25 as of September 1, 2017.
- A high school graduate of (or will graduate from): Bigfork, Blackduck, Bug O Nay Ge Shig, Deer River, Grand Rapids, Greenway, Hill City, Nashwauk-Keewatin, Northland (Remer), Northome, Northern Lights Community School.
- A homeschooled student who would have graduated from one of these schools
- Enrolled at any accredited educational institution in the U.S.
- Registered as a full-time student (12 credits per semester or quarter). Part-time students (6-11 credits per semester or quarter) are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Making academic progress (GPA 2.0 or higher) toward your degree/certificate.

## Going to Itasca Community College?

Please apply for a Blandin Foundation Education Grant directly through ICC by following a two-step process.

First, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and list ICC's school code – #002356. This allows ICC to receive your results. Follow up on any additional paperwork requests from ICC related to your application, if requested.

Second, complete the ICC Blandin Foundation Education Grant application at [www.itascacc.edu / forms](http://www.itascacc.edu/forms) by March 1. Once you have completed both steps, ICC can calculate your eligibility for an Education Grant. Funds are limited, so apply early! For more information, visit ICC's financial aid webpage: [www.itascacc.edu/finaid](http://www.itascacc.edu/finaid) or call the ICC Student Services Office at (218)322-2320.

## How to apply

Follow these steps to build your complete Blandin Foundation Education Grant application.

### 1. Start an online application.

Visit [www.blandinfoundation.org / educationgrants](http://www.blandinfoundation.org/educationgrants) to link to our online application form. You'll see instructions for each step of the process.

You don't need to do the entire application at once – you can save your work, log out and return when you have information to add.

Or use paper forms.

You'll see the 2017-18 Application and Student Release Form.

Fill these out anytime between October 1 and March 1 and mail them to the address on the Application, or drop them off at the Blandin Foundation office.

We use these forms to open your application in our files.

Just like the online form, you can provide the rest of the items that complete your Education Grant application later.

### Why do I need a Student Release Form?

Blandin Foundation needs your permission to contact your chosen school so we can verify the amount of financial need your school calculates for you BEFORE we can calculate the size of your Education Grant. We keep this information private and confidential.

You and your parents will need to have your 2015 tax forms for the next steps. If you meet the guidelines to be an "independent student," you only need your tax forms.

2. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

This form is important! It helps determine your financial need. Schools you applied to, and Blandin Foundation, use FAFSA results to calculate the size of grants, loans, etc., that will make up your total financial aid package. Some things to watch for:

- Register for a Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID at: [studentaid.gov/fsaid](http://studentaid.gov/fsaid). (The FSA ID has replaced the federal student aid PIN.) The student and parent (for dependent students) will EACH need to create his or her own FSA ID. Parents will be able to use their FSA immediately to sign their child's FAFSA. For more information, please visit [studentaid.gov/fsaid](http://studentaid.gov/fsaid).
- Provide an email address on your application. You'll get a direct link to your Student Aid Report (SAR – your FAFSA results) as soon as it is ready.
- Follow FAFSA directions carefully. If your FAFSA is incomplete, you won't get your SAR as soon.
- You have the option to download a PDF at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) or request a paper FAFSA by calling (800) 433-3243.

3. Provide a copy of your SAR to Blandin Foundation.

- Applying online: log in to your application and attach your form.
- Applying by paper: Mail or drop off at the Foundation's office.

4. If you make any corrections to your SAR, please send us a corrected copy.

5. Send us your 2015 tax returns.

- Your Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ.
- Your parents' Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. (Not needed if you are an independent student.)
- If your family owns a business/corporation, please send us the appropriate schedule for that particular business/corporation Form K-1 / subcorp.
- If your family operates a farm or has experienced high medical costs, include Schedules A and F.
- Blandin Foundation may ask for additional financial information, such as W-2s, or Form K-1/subcorp forms, to verify income.
- Please DO NOT send us your Minnesota state income tax form.

6. Make sure you give the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend all the papers they need.

- This helps Blandin Foundation get any additional information we need to complete your file.

7. Make the deadline – March 1.

- Blandin Foundation needs all parts of your application by this date.
- We consider extensions for FAFSA results (the SAR) and tax returns on a case-by-case basis. Call Diana at (218) 326-0523 or email [educationgrants@blandinfoundation.org](mailto:educationgrants@blandinfoundation.org).



## Need help?

- Call Diana at (218) 326-0523
- Email [educationgrants@blandinfoundation.org](mailto:educationgrants@blandinfoundation.org).

## Education Grants “fill the gap”

Blandin Foundation awards Education Grants to help you meet a percentage of your unmet financial need – the difference between what your school costs and how much you or your family can pay. The financial data in your application is analyzed by a computer program and individually reviewed by our staff and Education Grant committee.

Many factors affect financial need:

- School you choose
- Amount you and your parents are expected to contribute towards your educational expenses (this is part of what the FAFSA does)
- Income levels
- Assets
- Family size
- Number of students in college
- Other financial aid you may qualify for: Pell grants, state grants, other grants, scholarships

## When will you know?

We send you a letter by mid-May 2017.

## You must reapply each year

If you receive an Education Grant, we will send you a reminder to apply again, first in October and again in January.

Even if you have received a grant in past years, you must reapply each year so Blandin Foundation can re-calculate awards based on your most current financial information.

## You can apply until age 25

Anyone under age 25 who has graduated from an Itasca area high school listed on page one can apply for an Education Grant – even if you didn’t go on to school right out of high school.

## If your plans change

It is important that you keep us informed of any change of plans during or after the application process: different school, change of address, marital status, etc. Call Diana Daigle at (218) 326-0523 or email [educationgrants@blandinfoundation.org](mailto:educationgrants@blandinfoundation.org)