



2025 Country Elevator Management Scholarship Application

\$5,000

Grain and Feed Association of Illinois represents Illinois companies in the grain and feed handling industry. Members include multi-national grain handlers/shippers, as well as local grain elevators, feed dealers, ethanol plants, manufacturers and companies that provide goods and services to the industry. www.gfai.org.

Recipient will be Awarded:

- **Networking and career building opportunities** - Learn about the grain industry, network, build your resume and meet new people who can open doors for your career!
- **A \$5,000 scholarship** - \$1,000 to be given upon being awarded the scholarship; \$2,000 upon accepting a full-time position at an IL country elevator in either management (including trainee type of position), accounting, origination, or merchandising; \$2,000 upon completing the first year in said position.
- **A 3-day Summer Kickoff Tour** on August 4-6, 2025 complete with site visits around the state, educational programs and social events!
- **Hotel accommodations and registration at GFAI's Annual Convention and Trade Show** where recipients of the Industry Immersion Scholarship and this scholarship will be recognized during the general session on February 16, 2026 in St. Louis at Union Station.

Eligibility:

- Permanent Illinois address and a full-time junior at an accredited college or university at the time of application: will be **a senior the fall 2025 semester.**
- Students must be:
 1. Planning to work full-time at an Illinois country elevator after graduation. If hired, position must be in either management (including trainee type of position), accounting, origination, or merchandising.
 2. Attend the Summer Kickoff Tour on August 4-6, 2025
- Students must be interested in a career in the grain handling or feed industries and submit a transcript and three (3) professional letters of recommendation from a school advisor, faculty, employer, etc.
- **You may apply, and if chosen, receive both this scholarship & the Industry Immersion Scholarship. Only one student will be selected for this scholarship.**

Applications Must Be E-mailed or Postmarked by April 15, 2025

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GFAI Country Elevator Management Scholarship Application

Name _____ Email _____

Preferred address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Main/Cell phone _____

I am a Junior at the time of this application and will be a Senior in the Fall 2024 Semester. ____

Name of parents or guardians _____ Phone _____

Permanent address _____

Percentage of college expenses paid for by student or student's family _____% by scholarships _____%

Applicant's source of income _____

Applicant's annual income from all sources (including scholarships) \$ _____

Hours spent per week in job or part-time work during school year _____

If you have received or will receive other scholarships, indicate the name and amount: _____

High School _____ Number in class _____ Class Rank _____ GPA _____ / out of _____

List activities, offices held, awards and honors received while in high school (use additional sheet if needed):

Discuss your involvement in and contributions to your community near your home or school, including volunteerism or leadership roles (use additional sheet if needed):

COLLEGE INFORMATION

Please include your most recent transcript with grades.

College Currently Attending: _____

Major: _____

Minor (if applicable): _____

List activities, offices held, awards and honors received while in college (use additional sheet if necessary):

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Please list the courses you plan to take during the scholarship year.

Are you a student member or a dependent of a member of GFAI? If so, please list the member's name/s.

Do you have experience at a grain handling facility? If so, please explain.

What part of the industry interests you the most?

Briefly explain your career goal and why you should receive a GFAI Scholarship.

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GFAI Country Elevator Management Scholarship Agreement

I _____, fully understand that by applying for the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Scholarship Program, I am committing myself to follow the guidelines, on page 1 of this scholarship application. I will execute the Agreement concerning the Country Elevator Management Scholarship with GFAI and will execute the Agreement.

I understand that if any of the following scenarios occur, I will not receive any scholarship money, nor recognition for participating in the program:

1. Did not enroll for classes at an accredited University
2. Drop out of College at any time after being awarded the scholarship
3. Did not graduate in the Spring 2026 semester
4. Voluntarily withdrew myself from the scholarship

I understand that if any of the following scenarios occur, I will not receive the full \$5,000 scholarship, but will be able to keep what was already awarded:

1. Did not get hired for a full-time position at an IL country elevator in the fields of accounting, merchandising, origination, or management within a reasonable amount of time following graduation. What constitutes a reasonable amount of time is to be determined by GFAI on a case-by-case basis.
2. Did not remain employed by an IL country elevator for one calendar year.

I have read, understand, and agree to the application items and statements listed above.

Electronic Signature (*Type first and last name*)

Date

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the terms of the Program Agreement.

Application Checklist:

- Complete and e-mail or postmarked all documents by April 15, 2025
- GFAI will send all applicants a notification letter in May.

A completed scholarship application consists of:

- ___ Completed application with a signed and dated GFAI Scholarship Program Agreement form
- ___ Three (3) professional letters of recommendation from school advisor, faculty, employer, etc.
- ___ College transcript

Email all documents to cali@gfai.org
Or mail to: Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
3521 Hollis Drive, Springfield, IL 62711

Please contact the Association at 217.787.2417 or e-mail Cali Dambacher at cali@gfai.org with questions.