



**GRAIN & FEED
ASSOCIATION**
of Illinois

2025 Scholarship Application

\$3,500

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

You Should Consider This Scholarship Experience If You....

- Want to work in ag and have an interest in the grain handling and feed industries
- Want a steady career, competitive pay and to become a part of the industry that helps feed the world
- Have an interest in grain merchandising/originating, safety, operations, feed milling, management and more

To learn more about careers in the industry, visit our website at www.gfai.org/scholarship-and-career-information.html.

Recipients are 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 \$3,500 scholarship** - 40% of the scholarship is provided at the Summer Kickoff Tour and the remaining amount is awarded upon completion of the program in the spring.
- **Real work experience** - Students will work 4 days at a member facility (2 days each in the spring and fall) and provide two blog posts detailing their experiences. Students can suggest their preferred host.
- **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 all recipients will be recognized during the general session on February 16, 2026 in St. Louis Union Station Hotel.

Eligibility:

- Permanent Illinois address and a full-time freshman, sophomore or junior at an accredited college or university
- Students must be willing to:
 1. Work four days at a member facility (2 days each in spring and fall)
 2. Attend the Summer Kickoff Tour on August 4-6, 2025
 3. Write two blog posts detailing their experiences
- Applicants may only be awarded a GFAI Scholarship once. Previous winners who are sophomores or juniors are eligible for a \$1,000 "Renewable Scholarship."
- 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.

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



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GFAI Scholarship Application

Name _____ Email _____

Preferred address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Main/Cell phone _____

School rank at time of application: _____ Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior

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: _____

Previous College Attended (If applicable, this could be a Community College if you are a transfer student):

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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You can contact a preferred elevator that is located in Illinois and provide suggestions of the company you'd like to work with or have the Association place you with a company.

If possible, I'd like to work with _____

- Have you already contacted this elevator about being your potential host? ___ yes ___ no

I would like the Grain and Feed Association to pair me with a company

- Would you prefer this facility is near your _____ school _____ hometown _____ either

GFAI Scholarship Program 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 Industry Immersion Scholarship Program with GFAI and will execute the Agreement with the participating GFAI member host.

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 Community College or University
2. Drop out of College at any time during the program
3. Did not meet with my host facility for 2 days in the fall and 2 days in the spring
4. Voluntarily withdrew myself from the program at any time before the Summer Kickoff Tour
5. Did not complete and/or submit the survey or did not fulfill my blog requirements

I understand that *I am not a hired employee* of the company and that I do not have the same rights or privileges that company employees do. I also understand that I am responsible for transportation to and from my host facility. Many facilities are not open Saturday and I understand that I will likely have to spend my 4 days with my host, working during the week.

I understand my host is not obligated to provide compensation for my time with the company or offer employment. Nor am I obligated to accept or deny such an offer.

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.

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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

****Sign below if you would like to use the information from this application to also apply for the \$5,000 Country Grain Elevator Management Scholarship (see separate application form for terms of eligibility).**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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.