



## THE RICHARD AND HELEN DEVOS SCHOLARSHIP - 2026

The Richard and Helen DeVos Scholarship was established in 2021 by the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation to honor the legacy of Richard and Helen DeVos and their commitment to education. A generous gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation to the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation allowed for the creation of this scholarship to support an outstanding **Michigan resident** with tuition and related expenses for **Graduate level programs (Masters level, Doctoral level, or advanced research pursuits)** at an accredited public or private college or university in Michigan. **Applicants must be enrolling/enrolled in a graduate degree program and must be a U.S. Citizen and a resident of the State of Michigan.** The scholarship recipient selected for 2026 will be awarded \$25,000.

Students enrolled or entering an accredited Michigan college or university in a graduate level program are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. An important part of the application process is a **Statement of Purpose** (SoP) (please see page 6), demonstrating why the scholarship is needed, the academic program the candidate is pursuing, career plans for the scholarship applicant, and two letters of recommendation. Once awarded, the scholarship recipient will be required to present a written report / update on October 1, 2026 and April 1, 2027, to the Chair of the Scholarship Committee of the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation. The recipient may also be asked to attend a meeting of the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation Board of Trustees and a Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Thursday luncheon.

This scholarship is a one-year award. However, successful recipients may apply each year for this scholarship. Applications will be due by **April 15, 2026** and will be reviewed by a Scholarship Committee comprised of Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Members appointed by the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation Board. The April 15, 2026 application deadline will allow for review, candidate interviews, a final determination of the scholarship recipient by June 30, 2026, and the funding received for fall enrollment. This merit-based, needs-based, and non-discriminatory scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the completed application and personal interview. **The funds will be paid directly to the college or university on behalf of the student tuition, so a student number must be submitted by the successful candidate, as well as specified information regarding the college/university of attendance.**

**Submissions may be received by email or by regular mail.**  
**Email and mailing address can be found on page 8 of this application packet.**  
**All applications and requested documents must be received by midnight,**  
**April 15, 2026.**



## The Richard and Helen DeVos Scholarship Application - 2026

### Personal Information

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Former Name (if relevant): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address (if not same as above): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

### Citizenship Status

Are you a United States Citizen? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Resident of the State of Michigan? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### What College/University are you enrolled in or plan to attend with the DeVos Scholarship?

College/University(Name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I am pursuing this Educational Level: Masters \_\_\_\_\_ Doctorate \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Research \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Degree Program (i.e. Doctor of Optometry, Master of Physician Assistant, etc.)

Year in Program (i.e. In Fall, 2026, if this is the first year of your graduate or doctoral program, indicate "1". If this is the second year of your graduate or doctoral program, indicate "2", etc)



### **Educational Background/Previous College**

List all colleges or universities that you have previously attended:

1. College/University Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Date Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

2. College Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Date Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

3. College Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Date Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Leadership Roles**

List any leadership role(s) that you currently hold or have previously held while in college:

1. Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Roles/Responsibilities:

2. Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Roles/Responsibilities:

3. Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Roles/Responsibilities:



**Community Service Experience**

**Describe community service programs/activities you have been involved with outside of college (during your college career):**



## **Statement of Purpose (SoP)**

The Statement of Purpose (SoP) is an essay that will tell the Richard and Helen DeVos Scholarship Committee who you are, what has influenced your career path, what your professional interests are and what you plan to do with your graduate degree. The SoP is your opportunity to speak directly to the committee via essay and make your credentials stand out from similarly qualified candidates.

Your SoP should be objective yet self-reflective. The tone of the essay should be straightforward. Your topic should be relevant and concise. Document your conclusions with specific instances or draw your conclusions as the result of individual experience. Your SoP should be no more than 250-300 words in length.

Some areas to focus on are:

- Outline your skills and qualities. How will these assist you with your graduate studies?
- Significant activities, including volunteer activities or leadership activities you have engaged in that are relevant to your degree and career aspirations.
- The professional direction you have chosen and how this degree will enable you to realize your career goals.

Please provide your essay on the following page.



**Statement of Purpose Essay (limit of 250-300 words):**



### Employment

Are you currently employed?  Yes  No

Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your employment Full or Part Time? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your employer provide tuition reimbursement?  Yes  No

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### Military History

Are you a current or previous member of the U.S. Armed Forces?  Yes  No

Branch associated with?

Air Force

Army

Coast Guard

Marines

Navy

Space Force

Are you eligible for any military tuition assistance?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide details for tuition assistance:



### **Financial Information**

This section must be completed by the applicant. Please be as accurate as possible.

Current Student Debt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Loans minus scholarships, grants, etc. to date)

### **Estimated Annual College Expenses (for 2026-2027 academic year):**

1. Tuition & Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Room & Board \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Books & Supplies \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Transportation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Personal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Expenses Per Year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Estimated Financial Support (for 2026-2027 academic year):**

1. Parents \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Spouse \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Other Family \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Personal Savings \$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Summer Employment \$ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Full/Part Time Work \$ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Scholarships \$ \_\_\_\_\_
8. Loans \$ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Employer tuition reimbursement \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Support Per Year \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Estimated Annual Financial Need (Expenses minus support) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



### **Reference Letters**

Provide two (2) one-page reference letters from individuals familiar with your academic and leadership accomplishments. One of the letters must be by a faculty member of college/university.

### **College/University Transcript**

Provide a copy of your latest semester college/university transcripts

#### **IMPORTANT!**

- Be sure to follow each of these steps before signing this application.
- Submit your application via email to [rotary@grrotary.org](mailto:rotary@grrotary.org) with the subject line DeVos Scholarship Application or mail the completed application, statement of purpose, college/university transcript, and two letters of recommendation to:

**Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation  
1345 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 307  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505.**

**Please read the certification statement below, then sign and date your application.**

### **Certification**

*I certify that all answers given on this application are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that the application and any/all attachments may be used for the purpose of evaluation and selection by the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation.*

### **Applicant Signature**

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### **Date**

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