



THE RICHARD AND HELEN DEVOS SCHOLARSHIP - 2025

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 2025 will be awarded \$25,000.

Students entering an accredited college or university in Michigan or who are already enrolled 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 pages 2-3), 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, 2025 and April 1, 2026, 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, 2025** 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, 2025 application deadline will allow for review, candidate interviews, a final determination of the scholarship recipient by June 30, 2025, 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, 2025.**



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):

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their Statement of Purpose Essay.



The Richard and Helen DeVos Scholarship Application - 2025

Personal Information

Date: _____
Full Name: _____
Former Name (if relevant): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home/Cell Phone#: _____ Work Phone #: _____
Home Email: _____
Work Email: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Citizenship Status

- United States Citizen
- Resident of the State of Michigan

Is English your first language?

Yes No

Ethnicity (optional)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Prefer to not respond

Educational level : Masters ____ Doctoral ____ Advanced Research ____

When do you plan to enroll?

- Fall
- Winter
- Spring/Summer Enrollment Year

What degree do you plan to pursue?

- Architecture
- Arts & Science
- Business
- Health Profession
- Technology
- Other _____



What College/University are you enrolled in or plan to attend?

College/University(Name)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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: _____

3. Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Last Date Attended _____ Degree Earned: _____

4. College Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Last Date Attended _____ Degree Earned: _____

Employment

Are you currently employed? Yes No

Employer Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Is your employment Full or Part Time? _____

Does your company provide tuition reimbursement? Yes No



Military History

Are you a current or previous member of the armed forces? Yes No

Branch associated with?

- Air Force
- Army
- Coast Guard
- Marines
- Navy

Are you eligible for any military tuition assistance? Yes No

Leadership Roles

List any leadership role(s) that you currently hold or have previously held

1. Organization Name: _____

Roles/Responsibilities:

2. Organization Name: _____

Roles/Responsibilities:

3. Organization Name: _____

Roles/Responsibilities:



Financial Information

This section must be completed by the applicant in consultation with his/her parent(s), legal guardian or spouse. The information will be regarded as confidential & used only for the purpose of evaluation for the Scholarship. Please be as accurate as possible.

_____ \$ _____
Spouse's Name Occupation Annual Income

How many dependents, other than yourself, are you or your parents supporting? _____

Are any other of your parental dependents also in College? If so, # _____

Enter your estimated annual college expenses:

- 1. Tuition + fees \$ _____
 - 2. Room and Board \$ _____
 - 3. Books & Supplies \$ _____
 - 4. Transportation \$ _____
 - 5. Personal \$ _____
- Total Per Year \$ _____

Indicate the amount of financial support you expect to receive from the following:

- 1. Summer Employment \$ _____
- 2. Full or Part-time work or work/study \$ _____

How much will you and/or your family be able to contribute to your education and living expenses for the coming school year? \$ _____

Loans Total (list individually below) \$ _____

- a) _____ \$ _____
- b) _____ \$ _____

Scholarships Total (list individually below) \$ _____

- a) _____ \$ _____
- b) _____ \$ _____

Personal Savings Total \$ _____

TOTAL OF ALL FINANCIAL SOURCES LISTED \$ _____



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@rrrotary.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

Date
