



2025 Academic Scholarship Information

Congratulations on taking another step towards advancing your academic career and giving the world what it needs – more Hispanics/Latinos in STEM like you. The Society of Hispanic Professionals Engineers-Twin Cities Professional Chapter (SHPE-TC) is deeply committed to fostering educational equity and opportunity by providing scholarships and systemic support to engineering and science students from Latino/Latine/Hispanic/Latinx backgrounds. Through the SHPE-TC Scholarship, the chapter aims to empower students pursuing careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) by addressing the unique challenges they face in higher education. This year, SHPE-TC will proudly award multiple scholarships, helping to ease the financial burden and inspire academic success for Latino/Latine/Hispanic/Latinx students.

Background and the Need for Support

National statistics reveal a significant educational disparity: Hispanic/Latinx students are enrolling in and completing engineering and STEM programs at disproportionately low rates compared to their growing population. This underrepresentation is the result of systemic barriers, including financial constraints, a lack of access to mentorship, and limited representation within STEM fields.

Addressing these disparities requires a multi-faceted approach. Hispanic/Latinx students must be motivated to pursue STEM disciplines, supported through financial aid to reduce the burden of tuition and expenses, and provided with targeted programs that help them navigate the challenges of higher education.

SHPE-TC's Local Impact

Based in the Twin Cities, SHPE-TC is uniquely positioned to make a difference in Minnesota's Latino/Latine/Hispanic/Latinx community. The chapter collaborates with local organizations, businesses, and educational institutions to create opportunities for students and professionals alike. Through initiatives such as the scholarship program, professional development workshops, and community outreach events, SHPE-TC is driving tangible change in the region.

Over the past several years, we have proudly awarded more than 75 scholarships to Latino/Latine/Hispanic/Latinx students pursuing STEM majors here in Minnesota. These scholarships help students overcome financial barriers, providing them with opportunities to focus on their education and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

By investing in the next generation of Latino/Latine/Hispanic/Latinx STEM leaders, SHPE-TC is not only addressing a pressing need but also paving the way for a more diverse and innovative future in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Our Chapter will award multiple scholarships to Latino/Latine/Hispanic/Latinx students pursuing STEM degrees.

A special scholarship, with the possibility of a summer 2025 internship will be awarded to students majoring in Energy, Mining, Minerals & Metals, Programs & Construction Management, Water, Environmental, and Transportation fields, thanks to our partner and collaboration of Stantec.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the SHPE-TC Academic Scholarship, you must:

- Be a high school senior, college or university student, or attending graduate school. The term college throughout this application includes community college.
- Be a resident of Minnesota, or a student attending a college or university in Minnesota (regardless of status)
- Be of Hispanic or Latino/Latine/Latinx/Hispanic heritage
- Have a minimum cumulative high school or college grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- Be planning to attend, or already attend an accredited U.S. college or university in fall 2025. The term college throughout this application includes community college.
- Be planning to major in, or are currently majoring in, a degree program focused on science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM).
- Be able to submit to SHPE-TC confirmation of your enrollment for the fall of 2025.
- A video award presentation or photos may be recorded for SHPE-TC social media.
- Scholarship winners have to participate in the awards ceremony (Date to be determined)

Application Materials to Submit

- Application form
- Personal Statement and essay questions
- Resume (optional for High School applicants)
- Letter of Recommendation (professional) We might contact the recommendations, we recommend 2 letters of recommendations
- Statement of financial need including expected family contribution
- FAFSA or MN Dream Act application PDF (We understand that MN Dream Act can take a long time to process, Please make sure to inform us about your situation, so we can consider your application)
- High school seniors:
 - Copy of acceptance letter from the college/university
 - Official high school transcript – through January 2024

- o High school award winners must provide a copy of their acceptance letter from at least one college/university to SHPE-TC prior to scholarship allocation.
- College / University / Graduate school students:
 - o Proof of registration from the college/university (This can be submitted after you enroll for fall classes)
 - o Official college transcript – through January 2025
 - o First-year undergraduate students must also include your official high school transcript with high school GPA.
- All materials above must be submitted for consideration to our email: scholarships@shpetwincities.org and applications@shpetwincities.org.
- Major in eligible major list must be in 2024 transcript or acceptance letter

Application Ineligibility and SHPE-TC Scholarship Committee Guidelines

Students who have a parent or guardian that is a current SHPE-TC Board member are ineligible for this scholarship. If a SHPE-TC Scholarship Committee member is a relative, guardian, teacher, supervisor, or mentor for a student they will not review their application. SHPE-TC Scholarship Committee members will be asked to disclose any conflict of interest they have with student applications. If there is a conflict of interest they will not review that specific application. (SHPE-TC Scholarship Committee members can still write a letter of recommendation for a student they know, if they wish to do so.)

This year's Scholarship Gala will be tentatively held at the end of May of 2025. scholarship recipients must be present to accept their award at the Gala. Selected scholarship recipients will be notified of the confirmed Gala date.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is strictly prohibited. If it is determined that a candidate has utilized AI in any capacity, they will be immediately disqualified from consideration. This policy ensures fairness and upholds the integrity of the evaluation process.

Plagiarism is prohibited and the use of others intellectual property will result in immediate disqualification.

Funds need to be used towards college expenses only this include tuition, room and board, and books.

Application Timeline and Process

Applications are due **March 10th 2025 at 11:59 pm CT** (local time in Minnesota). Partial applications will not be reviewed. The SHPE-TC Scholarship Committee will review the applications and determine award winners. **Winners will be contacted by phone and email** regarding their participation in the awards ceremony.

All applicants will be notified of the SHPE-TC Scholarship Committee's decision, including those who are not awarded scholarships. We expect to inform applicants no later than

March 31 2025. The exact number of scholarships and amounts of scholarships can vary from year to year. Unfortunately, we cannot be specific at this time because we expect to receive additional funds between when we release the scholarship applications and when the Scholarship Committee reviews applications.

Application Format

We accept applications in Word, PDF, or JPG format only. PDF is preferred. The application needs to be submitted by **email** to scholarships@shpetwincities.org and applications@shpetwincities.org.

Please include all of the sections that are on this application and answer all of the questions. If you are unable to scan your signature for part D, you can type your name in the signature box.

Questions? If you have questions about the scholarship application, email Cesar Osvaldo Mendez Portillo Scholarships SHPE-TC scholarships@shpetwincities.org

Eligible S-STEM Degree Programs – for the SHPE Twin Cities scholarship

This list is based on the standard definition of S-STEM degrees. Please refer to the National Science Foundation's S-STEM discipline page for more information. Note that degree programs listed below will not be available at all universities, colleges, or community colleges. If you are not sure about your major please email Scholarships@shpetwincities.org

- Biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields)
- Physical sciences (including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science)
- Mathematical sciences
- Computer and information sciences
- Geosciences
- Engineering
- Technology fields associated with the disciplines above (e.g., biotechnology, chemical technology, engineering technology, information technology)

Check list

This is not part of the application but may help you ensure you have completed all parts of this application. All items need to be completed to be considered.

- General Information
- Resume (Require for college students, optionals for High school seniors)
- Copy of ACCEPTANCE LETTERS from college/university – High school students only

- Official high school transcript and GPA – High school students (up to most recent term) AND First-year undergraduate students (through end of high school)
- Proof of registration from the college/university for fall 2025–This can be submitted after. Please provide a sample of classes that you are planning to take if you have not registered for the fall term 2025.
- OFFICIAL college Transcript– up to most recent term– current college students
- Personal statement and Essay questions
- Statement of financial need- 1 page max
- Expected Family Contribution information – copy of your FAFSA or MN DREAM ACT application (PDF)
- Letter of recommendation
- NAME, DATE, SIGNATURE Acknowledging our requirements

Application

Please respond to the following questions in document format, please be sure to include all the information requested in Part A,B,C and D in one document.

Part A

Respond to the following questions

- Name
- Middle name
- Last names
- Gender
- Sexuality (Optional)
- Pronouns
- Are you part of SHPE?
 - If yes, provide the name of the chapter (example, SHPE UMN chapter, National chapter, SHPE St. Thomas)
- Heritage and country of origin (example, grandparents are from Mexico, Mom from El Salvador and Dad from Mexico, Born in Guatemala, Brazilian, Puerto Rican)
- Are you a first-generation college student? (Your parents have not graduated from college.)
 - If yes, do you have an older sibling who is a college graduate or enrolled in college?
- Are you part of a Indigenous community? (Purépecha, Totonac, Quechua)-Optional
- Home address (City, state, zip code)
- Cell phone number
- School email
- Personal email

- High school you are graduating from spring 2025, or college/university currently enrolled in:
- Schools (community college or university) that you are applying to with plans to start in fall 2025. Include all and city and state for each. (leave blank if currently in college)
- Planned STEM major or field of study (may list more than one)
- Minors
- High school or college cumulative GPA (of 4.0)
- Expected graduation date (month/year)
- Extracurricular activities (not paid work) (Example,Varsity soccer, debate, robotic club, Latino student organization, Student government, Volunteer at XYZ, mentoring, or Working part time)
- Leadership positions (Example, VP of SHPE St. Thomas chapter, secretary of the chemistry club, Captain of hockey, older brother/sister)
- Are you doing research?
 - If yes, what's the research on?
- Do you have an internship for summer?
- Do you have a mentor?
 - If yes, Provide name

Part B

Essay questions

This needs to be in the same document with the previous questions. Be creative, and have fun writing, we are looking for creativity and authentic voices. Respond to the best of your ability, you can respond to them individually or include the responses into a cohesive narrative. The use of AI is prohibited. Max 3 Pages, single space, 12.

- **Personal Statement**
- **Essay questions**
 - **How will your chosen field of study help you achieve your long-term personal and professional goals?**
 - **How have your personal experiences shaped who you are today and what's your motivation?**
 - **What unique qualities, experiences, or accomplishments set you apart from other candidates?**
 - **What drives your pursuit of higher education and professional success?**
 - **What inspired you to pursue your chosen major and career path?**
 - **How do you see yourself making a difference in your field or community and How do you plan to give back to the field, program, or community?**
 - **Why are you passionate about STEM?**
 - **Why did you choose the school that you are attending or will attend?**

Part C

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL NEED:

- Are you living with? (Both parents, one parent, caregiver/guardian, on own)
- Total Number of family members living in your present household?
- Expected Family Contribution (* from FAFSA or MN Dream Act):
- Are you currently employed?
 - If yes, where and how many hours per week?
- What is your family's and/or your approximate annual income from all sources? (Also include an explanation of any special circumstances.) Limit this statement to no more than one page.

NOTE: Remember that you must include a copy of your FAFSA or MN Dream Act application to be considered eligible for an academic scholarship.

Part D

Copy and paste this in your document, along with part A,B and C.

I certify that the statements and information provided in this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

If awarded a scholarship I plan to participate in the awards ceremony and am aware that not attending, except only due to critical emergencies that will be communicated prior to the event, I forfeit my scholarship award.

Date: Applicant's printed name

(If you are unable to scan your signature, then type your name below. By doing so you affirm that the typed information below acts as your signature.)

Applicant's signature

If you have any questions please email Cesar Osvaldo Mendez Portillo at: Scholarships@shpetwincities.org

Thanks to our sponsors,



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