# STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

# 2026-2027

# THEODORE R. AND VIVIAN M. JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP*

## Application for First-Time Scholar Applicants

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION MATERIALS TO BE RECEIVED BY THE UNIVERSITY: MAY 1, 2026**

**IMPORTANT: READ AND RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**

***This program is contingent upon annual funding by the Johnson Scholarship Foundation and matching funding from the Florida Legislature**

The Johnson Scholarship, funded by the Johnson Scholarship Foundation, is a competitively awarded program available to undergraduate students with disabilities enrolled in a State University System of Florida institution. Students must meet the following requirements to be considered for scholarship selection:

- Be a Florida resident for tuition purposes
- Be seeking a first baccalaureate degree
- Complete a Theodore R. and Vivian M. Johnson Scholarship Application
- Meet academic requirements
- Provide documentation of the nature and/or extent of a disability(ies)
- Demonstrate financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)/institutional need. Submit a FAFSA or renewal FAFSA form by the required deadline at https://fafsa.edu.edu. Confirm that the Federal School Code for your university is designated so that the university can access your results in assessing your unmet financial need.

**IF SELECTED, RECIPIENTS MUST:**

- Complete and return an acceptance form or contact the appropriate institution representative (listed at the end of the application) by the date specified in your notification letter. Failure to return the acceptance form by the specified date will result in forfeiture of the award.
- Participate in a Johnson Scholarship orientation.
- Complete a minimum of nine (9) credit hours each semester or 18 credit hours over fall, spring, and summer semesters.
- Maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average requirement of this program.
- Continue to have unmet financial/institutional need.

**FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING TO THE STATE UNIVERSITY:**

- A completed 2026-2027 Johnson Scholarship Application by the deadline.
- A completed FAFSA prior to submitting this application to the applicant's institution and provision for university access to the evaluation completed by Federal Student Aid. Contact your institution's university coordinator listed below for questions or concerns regarding completing the FAFSA.
- A current official transcript (students applying as a first-semester freshman should provide their high school transcript) showing a 2.0 grade point average
- Documentation of a disability(ies) in one or more of the following classifications: Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Autism Spectrum Disorder; Blind or Low Vision; Deaf/Hard of Hearing; Orthopedic Disability; Psychological, Emotional, or Behavioral Disability; Speech/Language Disability; Specific Learning Disability; Traumatic Brain Injury; and/or Other Health Disabilities. Appropriate documentation includes, but is not limited to, a recent psychological evaluation used to determine eligibility for exceptional student services, school/medical records, certification by the Division of Blind Services, or a Vocational Rehabilitation eligibility determination. The documentation must meet the guidelines required by the institution where the student is enrolled. Students must contact the university's Office of Student Disability Services to clarify the requirements.

- A personal statement (no more than one double-spaced page) about your achievements, activities, career goals, and how your disability(ies) has impacted your life
- Two letters of reference addressing your academic success and potential. One letter may be an academic reference addressing your academic success and potential. One letter may be a personal reference.

**NOTE**: Renewal applications must be submitted each academic year to be considered for the scholarship award. Johnson Scholarship recipients may qualify for the award for up to 120 semester credit hours of undergraduate study.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**
If you apply for admission at more than one institution, submit the completed Johnson Scholarship application materials to each university. The application should be sent to the contact person listed at the end of this form. The application, official transcript, disability documentation, personal statement, and letters of reference must be ***received by the institution(s) no later than May 1, 2026***.

**NOTIFICATION**
All applicants will be notified of their status as Johnson Scholarship recipients, alternate award candidates, or students who were not selected. Notification letters will be mailed to the permanent address specified on the application form in July.

**AWARD PAYMENT**
After enrollment verification, the university will disburse the award each academic term to eligible Johnson Scholarship recipients on a prorated basis. The dollar amount of the 2026-2027 awards is contingent upon the level of funding from the Johnson Scholarship Foundation and the Florida Legislature.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
Contact the university representative listed at the end of the application.

# State University System of Florida
# Johnson Scholarship
### Funded by the Johnson Scholarship Foundation
### 2026-2027 First-Time Applicant Form

**The appropriate State University System of Florida institution must receive this form and supporting application materials by May 1, 2026**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you choose to apply to more than one institution, you must submit complete application materials to each. You may email the application and supporting documents or mail the materials to the appropriate address listed at the end of this form.

All applicants **must** complete a 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form or a renewal FAFSA form online or mail it to the address indicated on the FAFSA form prior to submitting this application to receive full consideration.

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Current Address: _____
Street Address

_____ _____ _____
City State Zip

_____ _____
Telephone Number Email Address

Name of the institution where you last received the Johnson Scholarship: _____

CHECK ALL DISABLING CONDITION(S) THAT APPLY:

__ **Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**. A chronic condition manifested by hyperactive and impulsive behavior, significant symptoms of inattention, or both. The behavior and symptoms have a significant impact on cognitive ability and academic functioning.

__ **Autism Spectrum Disorder**. Disabilities characterized by an uneven development profile and a pattern of qualitative impairments in social interaction, communication difficulties, and/or the presence of restricted repetitive or stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, and activities. These characteristics may manifest in various combinations and range from mild to severe.

__ **Blind or Low Vision**. Disabilities in the structure and function of the eyes as manifested by at least one of the following: visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye after the best possible correction, a peripheral field so constricted that it affects one's ability to function in an educational setting or a progressive loss of vision that may affect one's ability to function in an educational setting. Examples include, but are not limited to, cataracts, glaucoma, nystagmus, retinal detachment, retinitis pigmentosa, and strabismus.

__ **Deaf/Hard of Hearing**. A hearing loss of thirty (30) decibels or greater, pure tone average of 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 hertz (Hz), unaided, in the better ear. Examples include, but are not limited to, conductive hearing impairment or deafness, sensorineural hearing impairment or deafness, high- or low-tone hearing loss or deafness, and acoustic trauma-induced hearing loss or deafness.

__ **Orthopedic Disability**. A disability of the musculoskeletal system, connective tissue, or neuromuscular system. Examples include but are not limited to, cerebral palsy, absence of some body member, clubfoot, nerve damage to the hand or arm, cardiovascular aneurysm (CVA), head injury or spinal cord injury, arthritis or rheumatism, epilepsy, intracranial hemorrhage, embolism, thrombosis (stroke), poliomyelitis, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, congenital malformation of brain cellular tissue, and physical disabilities pertaining to muscles or nerves, usually as a result of disease or birth defect, including, but not limited to, muscular dystrophy and congenital disorders.

__ **Psychological, Emotional, or Behavioral Disability**. Any mental or psychological disability, including, but not limited to, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, or attention deficit disorders.

__ **Speech/Language Disabilities**. Disabilities of language, articulation, fluency, or voice that interfere with communication in academic settings, employment preparation/training, or social interaction on campus. Examples include but are not limited to cleft lip or palate with speech disabilities, stammering, stuttering, laryngectomy, and aphasia.

__ **Specific Learning Disability**. A disability in one or more psychological or neurological processes involved in understanding or using spoken or written language. Learning disabilities may be manifested in areas such as listening, thinking, reading, writing, spelling, or performing arithmetic calculations. Examples include dyslexia, dysgraphia, dysphasia, dyscalculia, and other specific learning disabilities in the basic psychological or neurological processes. Such disabilities do not include learning problems that are due primarily to visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, to intellectual disabilities, to psychiatric or emotional disabilities, or to environmental deprivation.

__ **Traumatic Brain Injury**. An injury to the brain, not of a degenerative or congenital nature but caused by an external force, may produce a diminished or altered state of consciousness, resulting in impairment of cognitive or physical ability and functioning.

__ **Other Health Disabilities**. Any disability not identified in this subsection deemed by a disability professional to make completing the requirement impossible.

HAVE YOU BEEN ADMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY? (check one) ____ Yes ___ No

CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE: ____ High School (if no collegiate GPA yet)

____ Collegiate

2026-2027 ACADEMIC LEVEL (check one):

_____Freshman _____Sophomore _____Junior _____Senior

ANTICIPATED UNIVERSITY GRADUATION DATE: _____

I HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS A FLORIDA RESIDENT FOR TUITION PURPOSES BY THE UNIVERSITY (check one):

____Yes ____No ____Unsure

I AM (select one below):

_____ A first-time undergraduate degree-seeking student
_____ A transfer student seeking my first baccalaureate degree

**Checklist of required items to be sent to the university for initial application consideration:**

- A completed 2026-2027 Johnson Scholarship Application by the deadline
- University access to the evaluation by Federal Student Aid of the student's FAFSA
- A current official transcript
- Appropriate documentation of the nature and/or extent of a disability(ies)
- The personal statement
- Two letters of reference

**I certify that I have read, understood, and agree to the conditions of participation in this program. The information I am supplying in this application is true, complete, and correct. By signing the form, I also grant permission for the university to release information about my financial need and all supporting application materials to the Board of Governors Office for Academic and Student Affairs and the Johnson Scholarship Foundation. NOTICE: If you purposely give false information, you may be subject to fines, imprisonment, or both under 827.06, F.S.**

Signature:_____ Date: _____ Univ. ID#: _____

SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS TO THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT PERSON(S) LISTED AT THE END OF THE APPLICATION.

# University Coordinators

| | |
|---|---|
| **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University**<br>Ms. Deborah Sullivan<br>Director, Center for Disability Access and Resources<br>1735 Wahnish Way, CASS, Suite 102<br>Tallahassee, Florida 32307<br>Telephone: 850-599-3180<br>deborah.sullivan@famu.edu | **New College of Florida**<br>Dr. Jennifer Meier<br>Director, Advocacy & Accessible Learning Center<br>5800 Bayshore Road, HCL 5<br>Sarasota, Florida 34243<br>Telephone: 941-487-4847<br>jemeier@ncf.edu |
| **Florida Atlantic University**<br>Ms. Ashley Ciccolini Erickson<br>Associate Director, Student Accessibility Services<br>777 Glades Road, SU 133<br>Boca Raton, Florida 33431<br>Telephone: 561-297-3880<br>aciccoli@health.fau.edu | **University of Central Florida**<br>Ms. Missy Lesnewski / Mr. Matthew Lowe<br>Accessibility Consultant, Student Accessibility Services<br>Ferrell Commons 7F Room 185<br>Orlando, Florida 32816-0161<br>Telephone: 407-823-2371<br>melissa.lesnewski@ucf.edu<br>matthew.lowe@ucf.edu |
| **Florida Gulf Coast University**<br>Ms. Cori Bright-Kerrigan<br>Director, Adaptive Services<br>10501 FGCU Boulevard, South<br>Fort Myers, Florida 33965-6565<br>Telephone: 239-590-7956<br>cbright-kerrigan@fgcu.edu | **University of Florida**<br>Ms. Jenna Gonzalez<br>Director, Disability Resource Center<br>PO Box 114085 001 Reid Hall<br>1310 Museum Road<br>Gainesville, Florida 32611-4085<br>Telephone: 352-392-8565<br>jenna04@ufl.edu |
| **Florida International University**<br>Dr. Amanda L. Niguidula<br>Director, Disability Resource Center<br>GC 190 Modesto Madique Campus<br>11200 SW 8th Street<br>Miami, Florida 33199<br>Telephone: 305-348-3532<br>amanda.niguidula@fiu.edu | **University of North Florida**<br>Dr. Rusty Dubberly<br>Director, Student Accessibility Services<br>Building 57 Room 1500<br>1 UNF Drive<br>Jacksonville, Florida 32224-2645<br>r.dubberly@unf.edu |
| **Florida Polytechnic University**<br>Ms. Kelly Morgan<br>Coordinator, Disabilities Services<br>4700 Research Way<br>Lakeland, Florida 33805-8531<br>Telephone: 863-874-8770<br>kmorgan@floridapoly.edu | **University of South Florida**<br>Ms. Deborah McCarthy<br>Student Accessibility Services<br>4202 East Fowler Avenue, SVC 1133<br>Tampa, Florida 33620-6150<br>Telephone: 813-974-4309<br>dmccarthy@usf.edu |
| **Florida State University**<br>Ms. Amber Wagner<br>Assistant Dean of Students<br>Director, Office of Accessibility Services Center<br>874 Traditions Way; 108 Student Services Building<br>Tallahassee, Florida 32306-4167<br>Telephone: 850-644-9566<br>amwagner@fsu.edu | **University of West Florida**<br>Ms. Dawn Rocky<br>Director, Student Accessibility Resources<br>11000 University Parkway<br>Building 21/Room 110<br>Pensacola, Florida 32514<br>Telephone: 850-474-2387<br>drockey@uwf.edu |