

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA**

**2025-2026**

**THEODORE R. AND VIVIAN M. JOHNSON  
SCHOLARSHIP\***

**Application for First-Time Scholar Applicants**

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION MATERIALS  
TO BE RECEIVED BY THE UNIVERSITY:  
MAY 15, 2025**

**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 the 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 2025-2026 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 what is required.

- 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:** If you receive a Johnson Scholarship, you must still apply for renewal consideration each academic year you desire the 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 15, 2025.***

### **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 or August.

### **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 2025-2026 awards is contingent upon the level of funding from the Johnson Scholarship Foundation and the Florida Legislature.

### **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Call or write the appropriate university representative listed at the end of the application.



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 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 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 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

2025-2026 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 2025-2026 Johnson Scholarship Application by the deadline
- University access to the evaluation by Federal Student Aid of the student 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 and understood the conditions for 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 information about my financial need and all supporting application materials to be released by the appropriate university to the Board of Governors Office for Academic and Student Affairs and 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Z-Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## University Coordinators

<p><b>Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University</b>  Ms. Deborah Sullivan  Director, Center for Disability Access and Resources  1735 Wahnish Way, CASS, Suite 102  Tallahassee, Florida 32307  Telephone: 850-599-3180  <a href="mailto:deborah.sullivan@famu.edu">deborah.sullivan@famu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>New College of Florida</b>  Ms. Jennifer Meier  Director, Advocacy &amp; Accessible Learning Center  5800 Bayshore Road, HCL 3  Sarasota, Florida 34243  Telephone: 941-487-4637  <a href="mailto:jemeier@ncf.edu">jemeier@ncf.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Florida Atlantic University</b>  Ms. Ashley Ciccolini Erickson  Associate Director, Student Accessibility Services  777 Glades Road, SU 133  Boca Raton, Florida 33431  Telephone: 561-297-3880  <a href="mailto:aciccoli@health.fau.edu">aciccoli@health.fau.edu</a></p>	<p><b>University of Central Florida</b>  Ms. Missy Lesnewski / Mr. Matthew Lowe  Accessibility Consultant, Student Accessibility Services  Ferrell Commons 7F Room 185  Orlando, Florida 32816-0161  Telephone: 407-823-2371  <a href="mailto:melissa.lesnewski@ucf.edu">melissa.lesnewski@ucf.edu</a>  <a href="mailto:matthew.lowe@ucf.edu">matthew.lowe@ucf.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Florida Gulf Coast University</b>  Ms. Cori Bright-Kerrigan  Director, Adaptive Services  10501 FGCU Boulevard, South  Fort Myers, Florida 33965-6565  Telephone: 239-590-7956  <a href="mailto:cbright-kerrigan@fgcu.edu">cbright-kerrigan@fgcu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>University of Florida</b>  Ms. Jenna Gonzalez  Director, Disability Resource Center  PO Box 114085 001 Reid Hall  1310 Museum Road  Gainesville, Florida 32611-4085  Telephone: 352-392-8565  <a href="mailto:jenna04@ufl.edu">jenna04@ufl.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Florida International University</b>  Dr. Amanda L. Niguidula  Director, Disability Resource Center  GC 190 Modesto Madique Campus  11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street  Miami, Florida 33199  Telephone: 305-348-3532  <a href="mailto:amanda.niguidula@fiu.edu">amanda.niguidula@fiu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>University of North Florida</b>  Dr. Rusty Dubberly  Director, Student Accessibility Services  Building 57 Room 1500  1 UNF Drive  Jacksonville, Florida 32224-2645  <a href="mailto:r.dubberly@unf.edu">r.dubberly@unf.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Florida Polytechnic University</b>  Ms. Kelly Morgan  Coordinator, Disabilities Services  4700 Research Way  Lakeland, Florida 33805-8531  Telephone: 863-874-8770  <a href="mailto:kmorgan@floridapoly.edu">kmorgan@floridapoly.edu</a></p>	<p><b>University of South Florida</b>  Ms. Deborah McCarthy  Student Accessibility Services  4202 East Fowler Avenue, SVC 1133  Tampa, Florida 33620-6150  Telephone: 813-974-4309  <a href="mailto:dmccarthy@usf.edu">dmccarthy@usf.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Florida State University</b>  Ms. Amber Wagner  Assistant Dean of Students  Director, Office of Accessibility Services Center  874 Traditions Way; 108 Student Services Building  Tallahassee, Florida 32306-4167  Telephone: 850-644-9566  <a href="mailto:amwagner@fsu.edu">amwagner@fsu.edu</a></p>	<p><b>University of West Florida</b>  Ms. Dawn Rocky  Director, Student Accessibility Resources  11000 University Parkway  Building 21/Room 110  Pensacola, Florida 32514  Telephone: 850-474-2387  <a href="mailto:drockey@uwf.edu">drockey@uwf.edu</a></p>