



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS OF ARIZONA

2828 West Country Gables Drive · Phoenix, Arizona 85053
www.pacarizona.org · 623-419-4525

September 15th , 2026

Dear Members,

As you know, the Polish American Congress of Arizona is committed to promoting programs that foster Polish community, heritage, and educational excellence. Every year, we take pride in supporting outstanding students who demonstrate dedication to these core values and our community's vision.

As of **September 20, 2026**, we are now accepting applications for the **2026/2027 Scholarship Award**. All eligible candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

Attached to this letter, you will find the application form, eligibility requirements, and additional scholarship details. These documents may also be accessed on our website: <https://www.pacarizona.org/scholarship>. Please be sure to read the application carefully, as eligibility criteria and requirements are updated annually.

As always, we look forward to reviewing your applications and celebrating our community's exceptional accomplishments and contributions. **The deadline to apply is strictly October 25, 2026.**

With best regards

Kevin Lasek

Director of Learning and Education

Polish American Congress of Arizona

E-mail: info@pacarizona.org



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POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS OF ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIP

2026 / 2027

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for scholarship consideration, you must:

- Yourself be, or have at least one parent who is, of Polish descent
- Have been an *active* member of PAC for at least one year. While engagement with the broader Polish community is, of course, considered, this is a PAC-sponsored scholarship, thus involvement with PAC events is required and will take precedent during evaluation
 - Active means:
 - Have attended PAC monthly meetings
 - Have participated in PAC events (e.g., annual Heritage Ball, Picnic)
 - Have participated in PAC-affiliated events (e.g., building of PAC altar for the Feast of Corpus Christi)
- Be a full-time student with a grade point average (GPA) of:
 - 3.5 or above if you are in an undergraduate or trade school program
 - 2.5 or above if you are in a graduate program

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted with **all** required documents **at the time of submission**. You must enclose all the following:

- A fully completed scholarship application form
- Proof of enrollment for Fall Semester 2026—this may be in the form of a class schedule dated October 1st, 2026, or later
- A copy of your most recent transcript (it may be an unofficial copy)
- A signed letter of recommendation **which is dated no earlier than six months before the application deadline** and provides contact information of the referee. Applications with a letter of recommendation dated more than six months before the deadline will be disqualified
- An essay on a chosen topic (prompts provided below)
- An addendum (optional)

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

Your essay must:

- Be in PDF format, if sending in electronically
- Be single-sided, stapled, if sending in by mail
- Have a cover letter including your name and prompt topic (provided below)
- Be, at minimum, 3-4 pages in length, double spaced, in Times New Roman, 12-point font. The title page/cover letter and any additional addendum items (e.g., bibliography) do not count toward the required minimum page length
- *Explicitly* respond to a chosen prompt (provided below)
- Be in English or Polish. While essays originally written in Polish are not required and will have no influence on evaluation, they are pleasantly welcomed. Do not use translation software

ORIGINALITY

All material, apart from the recommendation letter, submitted as part of this application must be the applicant's own, original work. Essays will be subject to verification by artificial intelligence (AI) detection software. **Use of AI tools is prohibited** and will result in an **immediate disqualification** of the application. All other non-original material must be properly cited (citation style of your choice) in a bibliography.

AWARD TIERS DISCLAIMER

To guarantee fair participation, recipients of the Polish American Congress of Arizona Scholarship will be grouped into award tiers based on prior scholarship status.

- First-time recipients are eligible for the full award amount
- Second-time recipients may receive a reduced amount
- Applicants who have previously received multiple awards *may be* considered for a smaller, symbolic award (given an outstanding involvement record, excellent academic standing, and exceptional essay quality)

All award tiers will be evaluated against the overall caliber of each recipient's application. This includes the aforementioned factors and requirements such as PAC engagement, GPA, essay strength, recommendation, etc. PAC of Arizona reserves the right to grant, cancel, or amend awards at its discretion.

PICTURE REQUIREMENT

As part of this year's scholarship application, applicants are asked to submit a recent, high-resolution photograph of themselves. Selected scholarship recipients' photographs may be included in the Polish American Congress of Arizona Heritage Ball commemorative book. Please submit a clear, appropriate portrait-style photo along with your application.

ESSAY PROMPTS

1. What is one thing from your heritage, education, or community that you believe should be carried into the future—and how will you help carry it forward? Explain why it matters to you, how your education has shaped your perspective, and how you hope to contribute to its future.
2. Select a notable Polish individual, historical event, cultural element, or personal experience related to your background and discuss why it is significant to you. How does this topic influence your worldview and how can you leverage it to inspire others? Provide a summary of your chosen topic as well as specific instances of how it is applicable to your life and goals.
3. Imagine where you see yourself in a decade. What kinds of professional goals do you hope to achieve by then? What will your role in the Polish community look like? How can you carry on the torch of our current leaders to guide a future generation of Polish Americans? Include concrete examples of your future aspirations and contributions—do not solely describe pride in your Polish background.
4. Some applicants experience personal hardships or very unique experiences which they believe are significant factors to their sense of self. If you think this may be you, provide some details and discuss how your Polish background has positively influenced those journeys.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

If you are submitting your application electronically, email all documents in the required (PDF) format to:

info@pacarizona.org

If you are submitting your application by mail, send all documents in the requirement format to:

Polish American Congress of Arizona
2828 West Country Gables Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85053

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS IS OCTOBER 25, 2026 (11:59 PM MST).
THIS IS A **STRICT DEADLINE** AND NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER
OCTOBER 25, 2026 (11:59 PM MST)**

MAILED-IN APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THEIR POSTMARK DATE