



2026 Chicagoland Food Industry Scholarship Application - Undergraduate & Graduate

Application Criteria

To be selected for a scholarship you must:

- 1. Be a student member of IFT: <https://www.ift.org/membership/membership-types/student>**
- 2. Be a US citizen or a Permanent Resident / Green Card holder - this is a requirement**
- 3. Be pursuing a degree in Food Science or Food Science related area (Dairy Science, Microbiology, Chemistry, Nutrition, Food Safety, Engineering, etc.)**
- 4. Be attending school within the Chicago Section IFT boundaries or have a permanent address within the same boundaries (Applicable regions include the following zip codes: 60000-61999, 62300-62399, 62500-62799, 46300-46499)**
- 5. Supply contact information (name, phone numbers, and e-mails) for two references. References must be a professor, instructor, teacher, advisor, or supervisor.**
- 6. Provide an unofficial school transcript**

Additional Benefit to Recipients. Recipients have the opportunity to participate in a mentorship program during the fall of 2026. Mentors will represent the different careers in the food industry.

Directions:

- 1. Send your unofficial transcript to scholarship@chicagofoodscience.org**
- 2. Download application questions: [Download](#)**
- 3. Send reference link to your 2 references.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8J7T6V>**

If you have questions or need assistance, email scholarship@chicagofoodscience.org or call 630-916-4960.

* 1. Personal Information

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Permanent Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2 (put N/A if not applicable)	<input type="text"/>
City/Town	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
Email Address - personal not school	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number - home or cell	<input type="text"/>

* 2. Your Address While at School

Name of School	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2 (put N/A if not applicable)	<input type="text"/>
City/Town	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
School Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number - cell	<input type="text"/>

* 3. Are you a US Citizen or Green Card Holder? Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents. This is a requirement.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 4. Will you be a full-time or part-time student for the school year August 2026-May 2027?

- ☐ Full-time undergraduate
- ☐ Part-time undergraduate
- ☐ Full-time graduate
- ☐ Part-time graduate

* 5. What year in college will you be in the school year August 2026-May 2027?

- ☐ sophomore
- ☐ junior
- ☐ senior
- ☐ MS
- ☐ PhD

6. What month and year do you expect to graduate?

* 7. Institution Information

School/College Name	<input type="text"/>
Department Name	<input type="text"/>
School Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2 (put N/A if not applicable)	<input type="text"/>
City/Town	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	<input type="text" value="-- select state --"/>
ZIP/Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
School URL	<input type="text"/>
Admission Office Contact Name and Phone Number	<input type="text"/>



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Academic Information

* 8. Current GPA. You will also need to send a copy of your unofficial transcript to scholarship@chicagofoodscience.org.

9. What form(s) of financial aid did you receive this year? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Grants
- ☐ Loans
- ☐ Work Study
- ☐ Scholarships
- ☐ Other (please specify)

☐ None of the above

* 10. What is your current / expected academic program - major?

* 11. What is your current / expected academic program - minor? (put N/A if not applicable)

* 12. Why do you want to pursue a career in the food industry? (250 words or less)

* 13. Describe your involvement with the food industry (IFT, Chicago Section IFT, or other sections of IFT, internships, jobs, student associations, food science clubs, etc.) and how this involvement prepares you for a career in the food industry. (250 words or less)

* 14. Describe your volunteer activities in the past 3 years and discuss the impact of your contributions. (250 words or less)

* 15. Why should you receive a CFSF scholarship? What distinguishes you from other applicants? (i.e., What qualities, experiences, or skills set you apart from other candidates and prepares you for a career in the food industry? (250 words or less)

* 16. FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY: Describe your area of research and what you believe is its impact on, or contribution to, the food industry. Why is this work meaningful? (250 words or less)

Insert N/A if you are not in graduate school or "Not doing research" if you are not conducting research as part of your degree.

* 17. You are required to submit two references / letters of recommendation. These must be from a professor, instructor, teacher, advisor, or supervisor.

Provide the names, phone numbers, and emails of your references and then ask them to go to <https://chicagofoodscience.org/scholarship-application-2026/> to complete the recommendation form. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8J7T6V>

Reference 1 Name

Relationship to Student

Reference 1 Phone Number

Reference 1 Email

Reference 2 Name

Relationship to Student

Reference 2 Phone Number

Reference 2 Email

* 18. I will remember to send the reference link to my two references.

☐ Yes

* 19. I agree to participate in an interview / video if I am awarded a scholarship.

☐ Yes

☐ No



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Mentorship Program Opportunity

As part of the 2026-27 scholarship award, recipients have the opportunity to participate in a mentorship program. The program will run over a 3-month period: Sept-November 2026. Each session will meet 6 times.

Mentors will be comprised of experienced food industry professionals, food industry academia, New Professionals (less than 10 years in the industry, and food industry graduate students.

* 20. Choose all that apply.

- ☐ I am interested in being a mentor to a freshman or undergraduate student (**graduate students only**)
- ☐ I am interested in having a mentor.
- ☐ I am not interested in participating in the mentorship program.
- ☐ I am not sure at this time.

* 21. If you are not interested in participating in the mentorship program, please choose all that apply.

- ☐ I have other commitments in addition to school.
- ☐ I already have a mentor.
- ☐ I'd like to learn more before committing.
- ☐ I am interested in having a mentor!
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 22. I would be interested in being paired with - choose all that apply.

- ☐ New professional - less than 10 years in food science industry.
- ☐ Experienced professional in the industry more than 10 years.
- ☐ Graduate student or academic advisor
- ☐ I am unable to participate at this time.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 23. In which area(s) of expertise would you like your mentor?

- ☐ Sales and marketing
- ☐ R&D / Scientific / Technical
- ☐ Management / Supply Chain
- ☐ Education and Academia
- ☐ Purchasing
- ☐ Consulting
- ☐ I am not interested in having a mentor
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Thank you for completing the scholarship application. You will be notified no later than April 24, 2026 by email and letter of the status of the 2026 awards.

Don't forget to send the link to your references. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8J7T6V> If you have questions or need assistance email scholarship@chicagofoodscience.org or call 630-916-4960.