2026-27 ASPCA Veterinary Scholarship Program

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Overview

Who is eligible to apply?
To be eligible for this award, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in a AVMA-accredited veterinary or veterinary technician program for the entire 2026-27 academic year whose graduates are immediately able to sit for their licensing exam.
- Be in year two or later of your program of study during the 2026-2027 academic year (students entering their first year are not eligible).
- Commit to pursuing a career in the animal welfare field in mission-driven organizations that support animals, including careers in shelter medicine, community-centered medicine, HQHVSN (high-quality, high-volume spay-neuter), and non-profit and municipal animal shelters.
- Demonstrate financial need.

When does the application open?
January 20, 2026

When does the application close?
March 3, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time

When will I find out if I received a scholarship?
June 2026

When will funds be disbursed?
August 2026

Is this award renewable over multiple years?
Recipients may be eligible for renewal in subsequent years, subject to criteria and processes determined by the ASPCA.

Who administers this Program?
The program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS), an independent company that specializes in managing sponsored educational assistance programs. The ASPCA makes final decisions.

Scholarship Details

What are the selection criteria?

An independent selection committee will evaluate the **Complete** applications and select recipients considering:

- Academic record and achievements
- Community service/volunteerism
- Work/internship experience
- Financial need
- Essay content

Selection decisions are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.

What are the details of the award?

- Veterinary programs- students are eligible to receive up to $33,333 per year, up to a maximum total of $100,000. Veterinary technician programs- students are eligible to receive up to $10,000 per year, up to a maximum of $20,000
- Students may reapply each year if they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- Scholarships will be applied to tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for course work at a qualified AVMA accredited institution in the United States. These institutions include: two-year colleges, four-year colleges, vocational schools, technical schools. Students may transfer from one qualified institution to another and retain the award.
- Scholarships may <u>not</u> be applied to room and board and <u>cannot</u> be used to purchase a laptop if not required for all students attending the institution or course.

What are the renewal details?

- Recipients may be eligible for renewal in subsequent years, subject to criteria and processes determined by the ASPCA.

What are the expectations of ASPCA Scholars during and after the award?

- You must enroll in the fall of the year in which the scholarship was awarded in an AVMA-accredited veterinary or veterinary technician program whose graduates are immediately eligible to sit for their licensing exam. You much complete the entire academic year without interruption unless approved by the university.
- You are expected to commit to working for at least three (3) years post-graduation in the animal welfare field. This could include working in non-profit or municipal shelter medicine, community-centered medicine, for a HQHVSN (high-quality, high-volume spay-neuter program), or in the field of pasture-based or humane agriculture.

How and when are funds issued?

- Funds will be issued in early August.
- If your institution accepts ACH (electronic) payments, funds will be sent directly to your school as an ACH payment on your behalf.
- If your institution will not accept an ACH payment, a check will be issued made payable to the institution listed on your **Profile** page <u>only</u>. *Your scholarship check <u>cannot</u> be made payable to you, the applicant.* The check will be mailed to your home address so that you may deliver it to the correct office at your institution.
- You will receive an email notification once your funds have been issued.

Are scholarships taxable?

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, qualified scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment, and qualified educational expenses are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against his or her scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax adviser for more guidance. You may also consult IRS Publication 970 for additional information.

Application Details

What are the differences between Official and Unofficial Transcripts?

Official transcripts must be obtained through your college administration office, or your college registrar's office. Transcripts are normally printed on official letterhead and/or state that they are official. Transcripts may contain or require a signature.

*Note: Your official transcript may come to you in a sealed envelope, stating it will become unofficial if opened. When scanning or copying your official transcripts, a watermark <u>may</u> appear noting that they are now unofficial. **Despite any watermarks or sealed envelopes, you may open the envelope if needed to upload the document. These documents will be considered official for our purposes.** Acceptable file types are **.pdf, .png, and .jpeg.** When scanning or copying, you do not need to include a copy of the sealed envelope.*

Unofficial transcripts may be accessed through your school's online student portal. These pages must still be converted to one of the acceptable file formats. Unofficial transcripts **must** contain your name.

What supporting documentation is required for this application?
- Veterinary School Transcript (Currently enrolled in a veterinary program)
- Veterinary Technician School Transcript (Currently enrolled in a veterinary technician program)
- 2026-27 FAFSA Submission Summary (All applicants)

Where and when should I send my supporting documents?
All required supporting documents must be uploaded to your online application by the application deadline. If you do not follow the upload instructions exactly, your application may remain incomplete. Documents that meet the criteria required for this application that are uploaded by the deadline will be processed and considered on time.

Notifications

How will I be notified about the status of my application?
Notifications are sent primarily via email to the email you used to create your account. **Ultimately, it is your responsibility as the applicant to verify your application status on your Home page is Completed.**

What notifications will be sent to me?
- Deadline Reminders: Deadline reminder emails typically begin 30-45 days prior to the application deadline.
- Selection Results: Selection results notifications are sent to all **Complete** applicants.
- Renewal Instructions: If awarded, you will be sent a notification when it is time to renew your award.
- Funds Disbursed: Once your funds have been issued, you will be notified.
- Other Scholarships: Occasionally, if you meet the requirements for another scholarship administered by ISTS, you will be notified. These notifications are not guaranteed.

Your information is never sold to any third party for marketing purposes.

Who will notifications be sent from?
You will receive notifications from two possible ISTS email addresses: donotreply@applyISTS.com and ContactUs@applyISTS.com. You should add both of these email addresses to your "safe senders list" to ensure important emails are not sent to your spam or junk folder.

When will I receive notifications?
Notifications vary by program based on the Program timeline. Refer to the Program timeline listed above for more specific information. Typically, deadline reminder emails begin 30-45 days prior to the application deadline.

Can I opt out of notifications?
While you can opt out of notifications, this is <u>not advised</u>. It is your responsibility as the applicant to ensure your application is **Completed**. If you opt out of notifications, you will not receive deadline reminders, selection results, or renewal instructions. **Your information is never sold to any third party.** The only emails you will receive from ISTS are directly related to your application and, *possibly,* other scholarship opportunities. They can opt-out of notifications on your ISTS Profile.

Document Upload

What should be visible on my documents?
All uploaded documents **must** show your name. If you are using an online portal to access your required documentation and all that is visible is the salutation and your first name (Example: Welcome Joe!), this will meet the name requirement.

What are the acceptable file types?
The only acceptable file types are **.pdf, .png, and .jpeg.** Any other formats will not be reviewed, and your application will remain incomplete. You may upload multiple files within a .zip file. All files within a .zip file must be in one of the acceptable file types listed above.

Why can't I upload a Word document?
ISTS does not accept any editable file format.

One of the documents I uploaded has a status of rejected. What do I do now?
Review the reason your document was rejected. Once you have corrected that issue, upload a new copy of your document.

How do I upload more than one file at a time?
You may create a .zip file containing more than one file as long as everything included is in an acceptable file type of **.pdf, .png, and .jpeg.** Do not upload additional documentation that is not requested. It will not be reviewed.

How do I create a .zip file?
To use this format, follow the steps outlined below:
1. Create a new folder on your Desktop, name it the document type you will be uploading. For example, Transcript, or Financial Documentation.
2. Move all the files you wish to upload into the new folder.
3. Right-click on the folder from your Desktop:
   a. PC Users: select "Send to," followed by "Compressed (zipped) folder."
   b. Mac Users: select "Compress [folder name]."
4. Your new **.zip** file will be located on your Desktop, ready to upload.

How long does it take to process my uploaded documents?
Documents are processed daily. Your document will be processed within 1 business day. If your document was uploaded prior to the deadline, it will be considered. However, it is your responsibility to monitor your **Home page** to ensure your document is **Accepted**.

The deadline has passed and my documents are still processing. What does that mean?
All documents must be reviewed for the required information and for accuracy. All documents uploaded prior to the application deadline will be reviewed and considered. It is your responsibility to monitor your **Home page** to ensure your document is **Accepted** and that your application status reads **Completed**.

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What are the DOs and DON'Ts of uploading documents to my application?

DO:
- Upload one of the accepted file types.
- Only upload the requested and required documents.
- Black out any Social Security Numbers. *This is not required, but highly advised.*
- Return to your **Home page** to verify your documents have been **Accepted**.
- Complete everything marked "required." Contact us if you are having trouble providing a required document.

DON'T:
- Upload a Microsoft$^{®}$ Word document (.doc, .docx) or any other format we don't accept.
- Upload more than the requested documentation.
- Assume your documents are correct and accepted once you have uploaded them.
- Upload a document stating you are mailing your documents.
- Password-protect your uploaded documents. Password-protected documents will be rejected.
- Upload any file that has a viewing expiration date.

Other Important Information

ISTS Student Support Hub
For more helpful information about scholarships plus answers to common inquiries related to ISTS' technology and processes, visit our Student Support Hub at ISTSprogramsupport.com.

Contact Information
ISTS office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Central Time, and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Central Time. Program Support Representatives are available via live chat and email during these hours. Use the green **Help** button (as shown below) at the bottom right corner of your screen to contact us.

When contacting ISTS for assistance, please have your Application ID ready. You can find this in the top left corner of the program you applied to on your homepage.