

## Common Questions about CAAS Scholarship

**Question:**

How do I access the USU scholarship application portal?

**Answer:**

You can log in to ScholarshipUniverse (SchU) from the USU Scholarship **homepage**. Click this green button:

**Log in to USU Scholarship Application Portal**

**Question:**

When are CAAS scholarship applications due?

**Answer:**

Deadline for application is February 15, 2024.

**Question:**

Is it true that only half of CAAS scholarships are open for application? If so, when will the other half open?

**Answer:**

You are correct. Roughly 150 CAAS scholarships are now open for application. An additional 140 CAAS scholarships will open for application sometime after March 15. Each of these second-half applications has a financial need component, which means that USU is required to obtain financial need data before making its award selections. This data should begin flowing to USU sometime in late March, perhaps early April. In the meantime, be sure to complete the 2024-25 FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

**Question:**

How will I know when the second-half application period opens?

**Answer:**

CAAS Student Services will send each student an email indicating opening and closing dates for the second CAAS application period. Students will also receive Canvas and social media notifications.

**Question:**

How long does it take to complete the questions on SchU?

**Answer:**

It will likely require from two to six hours. There are more than 300 questions in SchU, and some repeat. While it does take time and effort, the more questions you answer, the greater your scholarship opportunities.

**Question:**

How do I know which CAAS Scholarships are available for my program?

**Answer:**

Visit <https://caas.usu.edu/students/scholarships>. Near the bottom of the page, you will find a list of CAAS scholarships organized by department.

**Question:**

Why am I having trouble finding any CAAS scholarships on my SchU applications page?

**Answer:**

There are a few reasons.

1. You may not qualify for the scholarship.
2. You may not have answered enough SchU questions to properly place you into scholarship application pools.
3. The scholarship may be a needs-based award. CAAS needs-based scholarship applications will open later this spring, sometime after mid-March.
4. You may only be “partially matched” to a scholarship (without going into too much detail, this means that you can click on the partial match scholarship and fix negative matches by clicking the pencil icon and revising your answer).
5. The scholarships you qualify for may all be “direct award” scholarships, which means that there is no application. If a scholarship is a “direct award,” students are placed automatically into the scholarship’s candidate pool. This automatic placement is based on Banner/SIS data such as major, GPA, class level, residency, and so on, as well as your responses to SchU questions. When an application period is underway, you will know whether a scholarship is “direct award” or requires an application by its Status box. When “Reviewing” is indicated, the scholarship is a direct award. When the status is “Open,” students must complete an application.

AMOUNT	ORGANIZATION	DEPARTMENT	APPLY BETWEEN
Amount Varies	College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences (AGRI)	Plants Soils & Climate Undergrad	12/15/2023 - 2/15/2024
Amount Varies	College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences (AGRI)	Applied Sciences Technology & Education	12/15/2023 - 2/15/2024

**Question:**

Is it true that international students may be assigned a financial need-index, which may permit them to apply for CAAS needs-based scholarships?

**Answer:**

Yes, USU will now assign international students a financial need index, ostensibly qualifying them to be included in the candidate pools for certain CAAS needs-based scholarships. Undocumented students also are included in this needs-based index. If you have questions regarding this index, please reach out to the USU scholarship office.

**Question:**

I answered all of the SchU questions last year. Is there a need to answer more questions or review my past responses?

**Answer:**

SchU questions are in constant flux. Existing questions are updated and revised, and new questions are added from time to time. New check box responses appear, new focus areas and career goals are added, groups and organizations are updated, and so on. In addition, consider your own status. You establish new relationships, change majors or focus areas, add minors, improve grades, take jobs, gain experience, give presentations, travel, begin student teaching, join a new organization, take on leadership roles, and much, much more. Each of these events can be updated in your SchU responses, and those updates may qualify you for additional scholarships.

**Question:**

Do I have to write a thank-you letter and submit a photo for every scholarship I receive?

**Answer:**

For CAAS scholarships, yes. We send your thank-you letter and photo to the scholarship donor who will experience the joy of helping a talented, appreciative student.

If you have additional questions regarding:

- **CAAS scholarships**, please email [caas.scholarships@usu.edu](mailto:caas.scholarships@usu.edu).
- **FAFSA**, please email [financialaid@usu.edu](mailto:financialaid@usu.edu).
- **ScholarshipUniverse**, please email [scholarships@usu.edu](mailto:scholarships@usu.edu)
- **USU scholarships**, please email [scholarships@usu.edu](mailto:scholarships@usu.edu)