

2026 DeKalb Community Scholarship for Non-traditional Students

Community Foundation DeKalb County

Essays Rubric

Applicant ID

Enter your first and last initial, and the last 4 numbers of your phone number. This Applicant ID will follow your application throughout the process.

Example

Name: John Smith

Phone Number: 555-5555

Applicant ID: JS5555

Character Limit: 6

Writing- Grammar & Structure*

Please submit an overall score for all open response questions.

10-9 pts (Excellent)

Well written and very organized

Excellent grammar mechanics and concise statements

Excellent efforts and presentation with detail

8-7 pts (Good)

Writes fairly clearly

Good grammar mechanics

Good presentation and organization

6-5 pts (Fair)

Minimal effort

Fair grammar mechanics

Fair presentation

4-3 pts (Poor)

Somewhat unclear

Shows little effort, not organized

Poor grammar mechanics

Confusing and choppy incomplete sentences

2-0 pts (Very Poor)

Lack of effort
Very poor grammar mechanics
Very unclear
Lack of attempt

Scoring Options: 0 - 10

Writing- Content*

Please submit an overall score for all open response questions.

10-9 pts (Excellent)

Content is compelling to the reader
Addresses all parts of the questions
Eloquently explains their goals and ambitions
Demonstrates an authentic passion for their field of study

8-7 pts (Good)

Sufficient effort and detail
Adequately describes their goals and ambitions
Demonstrates moderate enthusiasm in their field of study

6-5 pts (Fair)

Few supporting details
Explains their goals and ambitions
Shows some interest in their field of study

4-3 pts (Poor)

Goals and ambitions are somewhat unclear
Unclear level of interest in their field of study

2-0 pts (Very Poor)

Does not address the topic
Has little or no inclusion of goals and ambitions
Gives little to no indication of interest in their chosen field

Scoring Options: 0 - 10