

Polish American Congress of Arizona

2828 West Country Gables Drive

Phoenix, Arizona 85053

www.pacarizona.org



October 1st, 2025

Dear Members,

As you know, the Polish American Congress of Arizona is committed to promoting programs which foster Polish community, heritage, and educational excellence. Every year, we pride ourselves in uplifting exemplary students who demonstrate a dedication to these core values and visions.

As of October 1st, 2025, we are now accepting applications for the 2025/2026 scholarship award. All eligible candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

Attached to this letter, you will find the application form, eligibility requirements, and additional details for the scholarship. These documents may also be accessed on our website:

<https://www.pacarizona.org/scholarship> . Please be sure to read the application carefully, as we update our eligibility criteria and requirements 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 31st, 2025.

With best regards,

Kevin Lasek

Director of Learning and Education

Polish American Congress of Arizona

E-mail: info@pacarizona.org



Polish American Congress of Arizona Scholarship

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
 - o 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:
 - o 3.5 or above if you are in an undergraduate or trade school program
 - o 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 2025—this may be in the form of a class schedule dated October 1st, 2025, 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)

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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.

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Essay Prompts

1. In 2025, Poles celebrate the millennium anniversary of the coronation of Bolesław I Chrobry (Bolesław I the Brave) as the first king of Poland. Drawing up on his legacy, describe what leadership means to you today. In what ways do you demonstrate leadership in your community, academic institution, job, or personal life? How can your actions inspire others and what significance does your Polish background have on the way you lead. Be sure to provide a brief historical background and concrete examples that tie into your response.
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:

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THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS IS **OCTOBER 31, 2025 (11:59 PM MST)
THIS IS A STRICT DEADLINE AND NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER
OCTOBER 31, 2025 (11:59 PM MST)**

MAILED-IN APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THEIR POSTMARK DATE