



## 2024-2025 JFS- David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship Guidelines, Criteria and Application

**Application postmark deadline April 8, 2024**

The JFS-David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship is a private scholarship program established by Dr. Robert Rubenstein in memory of his son David. The program annually grants between 20-30 scholarships of up to \$5,000. The JFS-David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship seeks to encourage young people to treasure their Jewish heritage, reflect on their Jewish values, and better understand their connection to the community.

### Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

Applicant must:

- Identify as Jewish.
- Be a legal and permanent resident of San Diego County for at least two years by the start of the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Be a U.S. Citizen or documented legal permanent U.S. resident (green card).
- Plan to attend school full-time at an approved college, university, technical, or vocational school in the United States starting in the Fall Semester of 2024.
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Demonstrate financial need indicated by an adjusted gross family income not to exceed 80% of the 2023 San Diego County Area Median Income (AMI) based on household size. A "household" includes the tax filer, their spouse if they have one, and their tax dependents. Adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$77,200 for a household of one, \$88,200 for a household of two, \$99,250 for a household of three, \$110,250 for a household of four, and \$119,100 for a household of five. A household of one only applies to students who qualify as "independent" according to FAFSA guidelines, are not married, and have no dependents. If your family size exceeds five people, please reach out to scholarship@jfssd.org to see if you meet the financial need requirement for the scholarship.
- Plan to contribute towards their own education through part-time work before or during the academic year, (unpaid internships or volunteer work are also acceptable).

### Application Requirements

Applications are complete and valid only when **ALL** documents have been submitted in one package. Please do not staple documents together. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. **Verify that you have enclosed the following information before submitting your application:**

- **Completed typed Application Form.**
- **Copy of your most recent transcripts.**
- **Essay:** Submit a 350-500 word, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced essay on one of the topics provided below.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Submit two letters of recommendation from a non-family member. Note: Letters should be on official letterhead and must contain the writer's full name, title, address, phone number and email address. Please be certain that the letter is current and addressed to the Scholarship Committee.
- **Income Tax Return (Form 1040):** Submit a copy of the first two pages of the 2022 tax return. A student's status as dependent or independent will be based on the guidelines set forth by the College Scholarship Service. For a student age 24 or younger, to have "independent" status, the student's parents cannot have claimed him or her as "dependent" on their Income Tax Returns for the two (2) years prior to the year of college attendance. If parents are divorced, income tax forms from both parents are required.

- **Financial Aid/Student Loans:** Submit a copy of the School Financial Aid Award Notice as well as copies of the College Scholarship Service's Student Aid Report (SAR) and documentation of determinations regarding federal, state, and private aid, as soon as they become available.  
**Additional Requirement for First-Time Applicants only:**
- **Recorded Interview Video:** Submit a recorded video of yourself answering interview questions developed by our scholarship committee. More detailed instructions provided below.

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## Fillable PDF Instructions

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- Before you begin, ensure that you have the most recent version of Adobe Acrobat Reader. The most current version can be downloaded for free from the Adobe® Web site.
- To download the file directly to your computer, right click on the link, then select "save link as" or "save target as" from the dropdown options. Make a note of the location on your drive and the name of the file being saved so you can locate it later.
- There is no computation, validation or verification of the information you enter. Some information, such as signatures are required to be handwritten on the form.

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## Selecting Scholarship Recipients

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- The JFS-David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship recipients are carefully chosen based on a variety of criteria by the Scholarship Committee. All applicants will be notified in writing of the JFS-David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship Committee's decision.
- Students are eligible to receive up to a total of four (4) years of the JFS-David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship funding, and the funding years do not have to be consecutive. Scholarships are made on a year-to-year basis and are NOT automatically renewed. Scholarship recipients must submit a new application and the required documentation in compliance with the application deadlines, stated herein, for each year that they seek funding.
- Jewish Family Service reserves the right to publicize the names of the Scholarship recipients through our website, print publications, and local media.

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## Scholarship Disbursement

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- Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the academic institution the student is attending solely for use towards qualifying academic expenses, including tuition, room and board, books, school fees, or required academic supplies/equipment. Scholarship awards will not be paid to the student.
- You must submit a copy of your Fall 2024 transcript.
- All selected scholarship recipients are required to submit a thank you letter to the donor(s) no later than September 30, 2024. Scholarship disbursements will not be made until the thank you letter is received.
- You are expected to attend the Scholarship Recognition Brunch to be held in December 2024/January 2025. An invitation will be sent to recipients confirming the exact date.

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## Submit Completed Application and Supporting Documents

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### By Mail

Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
JOAN & IRWIN JACOBS CAMPUS  
Turk Family Center  
8804 Balboa Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123-1506  
Attention: Rubenstein Scholarship

### By Email

[scholarship@jfssd.org](mailto:scholarship@jfssd.org)

**Questions?** Email [scholarship@jfssd.org](mailto:scholarship@jfssd.org).



## 2024-2025 JFS- David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship Application

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name/Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender Identity:

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Transgender ☐ Genderqueer/ gender non-conforming  
☐ Questioning/unsure ☐ Prefer not to answer ☐ Other \_\_\_\_  
of gender identity

Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. citizen or legal resident? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Month and Year your San Diego residency began \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Do you identify as Jewish? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you hear about the Scholarship Program?

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever received a JFS-David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Competitive applicants will have demonstrated active Jewish community engagement. Please describe your involvement with Jewish communal activities (including dates and offices held).

### CURRENT/PRIOR ACADEMICS

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Major or course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA (UNWEIGHTED on 4.0 scale): \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA (WEIGHTED with AP, IB and honors classes): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your extracurricular activities (including dates and offices held):

Please list awards and honors you have received (including dates):

If you were unable to participate in activities, explain the reason(s) and how you otherwise spent your time:

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### FALL 2024 EDUCATIONAL PLANS

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Major or course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I will: ☐ live on campus ☐ live off campus ☐ commute from home

If school is a public institution, applicant will pay: ☐ in-state resident tuition ☐ out-of-state-tuition

Do you plan to graduate this year? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, which quarter or semester? \_\_\_\_\_

If you haven't been accepted to a college, please list the colleges you have applied to:

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

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### APPLICANT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Describe any significant work experience with your most recent position listed first. Work experience may include unpaid internships to get experience in a career field.

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Earnings: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Hours/week: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Earnings: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Hours/week: \_\_\_\_\_

If you did not work, were you engaged in your community through volunteering?

Do you plan to work or volunteer during the 2024-2025 Academic Year? ☐ Yes ☐ No Please explain:

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**ESSAY:** Submit a 350-500 word, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced essay on one of the following topics:

- The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
  - Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
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**GENERAL FAMILY INFORMATION** - students under the age of 24 need to provide parent's marital and financial information.

Marital Status: ☐ Married ☐ Single, Never Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Remarried ☐ Domestic Partners

☐ Separated ☐ Divorced (if divorced or separated, complete questions a through e)

a. Date of divorce or separation (month and year): \_\_\_\_\_

b. Custodial parent: ☐ Mother ☐ Father ☐ Joint Custody ☐ Custodial parent has remarried

c. Who claimed applicant as a tax dependent for 2022? ☐ Mother ☐ Father

d. How much will each parent pay for 2024-25 college expenses?

Mother \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Father \$ \_\_\_\_\_

e. Permission to contact: ☐ Parent/Guardian 1 ☐ Parent/Guardian 2 ☐ Both

Total # of individuals residing in household in 2022 (including you, parents, siblings, and others): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of family members in household attending college in Fall 2024, INCLUDING you: \_\_\_\_\_

f. List family members in household currently attending college Fall 2024 and school, EXCLUDING you.

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**PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPOUSE INFORMATION**

Relationship to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Own ☐ Rent Monthly Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Value of Home \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Mortgage Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Most Recent Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Salary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List other income (per month): Social Security \$ \_\_\_\_\_ VA Benefits \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Rental Income \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Investments \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Worker's Comp/Disability \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Own ☐ Rent **Monthly Payment \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Value of Home \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mortgage Balance \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Most Recent Employer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Work Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Salary: \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**List other income (per month):** **Social Security \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **VA Benefits \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rental Income \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Investments \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Worker's Comp/Disability \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Retirement \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on FAFSA for 2024-25 academic year, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2022 income information, rather than their 2023 income information.**

Have you submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

☐ Yes ☐ No, but I plan to apply ☐ No, and I do not plan to apply

If you do not plan to submit the FAFSA, please briefly explain why:

If you have submitted your FAFSA and have received your Student Aid Report (SAR), please enter your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) here: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any financial circumstances or need(s) that are not evident from the financial information such as recent changes in finances, personal or family hardship or other financial challenges, please briefly explain below:

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## BUDGET INFORMATION

1. Are you going to receive financial support from your family? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how much? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the expected tuition and fees for your chosen school? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the anticipated expense amounts for books and school supplies? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the anticipated expense amounts for room and board? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Have you received any other scholarships? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which ones and for how much? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you plan to take out loans? ☐ Yes ☐ No If so, how much? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you plan to have a job or do work study? ☐ Yes ☐ No
8. Have you received your financial aid package? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please attach it to your application.

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I acknowledge all scholarship decisions are final. I certify that I meet the eligibility requirements of the program as described in the guidelines and the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Falsification of information may result in the termination of any award granted.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Limited Directory Release** *(optional)*

If selected, I authorize JFSSD to share limited contact information (first name, last name, and email address) to the JFS- David Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship donors and other local Jewish organizational partners for the purposes of connecting recipients to local Jewish events and the Jewish community.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Verify that you have enclosed the following information before submitting your application:**

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- ☐ **Copy of your most recent transcripts.**
- ☐ **Essay**
- ☐ **Two Letters of Recommendation:**
  - Submit two letters of recommendation from a non-family member.
  - Letters should be on official letterhead and must contain the writer's full name, title, address, phone number and email address.
  - Please be certain that the letter is dated and addressed to the Scholarship Committee.
- ☐ **Income Tax Return (Form 1040):** Submit a copy of the first two pages of the 2022 tax return.
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**Additional Requirement for First-Time Applicants only:**

- ☐ **Recorded Interview Video:** Submit a 5–10-minute recorded video of yourself answering interview questions developed by our scholarship committee, listed below. Email [scholarship@jfssd.org](mailto:scholarship@jfssd.org) for your personalized video uploading link.
  - What are you studying/planning to study? How did you become interested in your focus area?  
OR  
If you have not chosen an area of study yet, how do you plan to decide?
  - What influenced your choice of selecting the college/university you are attending in the Fall?
  - What do you hope to get out of your college experience?
  - How do you plan to stay engaged with the Jewish Community while in school?