

The Big Bend Filipino American Association (BBFAA) 2025-2026

Rules and Guidelines

Purpose

The Big Bend Filipino Association (BBFAA) will award an Educational Grant to financially assist the undergraduate studies of eligible Florida local area. Applications are screened and verified for eligibility prior to submission to the BBFAA Education Selection Committee(s). The BBFAA has membership requirements, but there are no association membership requirements for the educational grant program.

I. Requirements and Eligibility

a. Who can apply?

- i. Senior in High School, or Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior in an accredited institution of higher learning.
- ii. Overall GPA 3.0 --- High School Applicants
- iii. Overall and Current GPA 3.0 and above for applicants already attending an eligible academic institution.
- iv. Initially students must reside within 100 miles radius and graduate from high school residing in the Big Bend area of Florida, which includes Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla counties, and Bay County.
- v. Students are eligible wherever they apply for college anywhere in the world until graduation with an AA, BA, or BS degree. Past awardees may reapply annually.

b. Evaluation criteria

- i. The applicant must be a High School Senior or currently enrolled in a college or university. **This is open to all students of all ethnic backgrounds!**
- ii. Applicants may apply by submitting a written essay that addresses the annual topic or question.
- iii. **Those currently enrolled in College:** Include an official, original transcript from the school verifying your current GPA. The minimum is a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher. The transcript must have your name on it and show that you are enrolled for the minimum number of hours (6 credit hours for undergraduate study and 3 credit hours for graduate study). You must be in a degree program.
- iv. **High School Students:** Include proof of acceptance to an accredited college or university. This must be an original letter on college or university stationery from the admissions office or the registrar.

c. Required Documents

- i. A photo of the applicant (preferably a head shot). Your photo and your words may be used in our publications.

- ii. Complete application packages must be received no later than **May 31, 2025**.
- iii. A signed, completed BBFAA Educational Grant Program Application.
- iv. A minimum 500 word essay on a topic to be determined by the Grant Selection Committee

II. Deadline

- a. The deadline to submit all of your forms and documents is **May 31, 2025** by 11:59 pm ET.
- b. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

III. Notification of Award Recipients

- a. The grant(s) are valued at \$500 to students attending an accredited academic institution. The grant amount and total number of grants awarded are dependent upon funds available.
- b. All contributions are used solely for educational purposes, and there are no administrative or other fees charged. The program is totally dependent on donor and fundraising support.
- c. Grants are awarded in each program based on the applicant's academic record, character, leadership skills, writing ability, and versatility. **Financial need is not a consideration.**
- d. Recommendations from the screening committee are presented to the Grant Selection Committee for final determination. Those chosen to receive the grant are notified by mail from the BBFAA. For High School Seniors, the High School and the Academic Institution that they will attend will also receive notification of the student awarded the grant. A check is mailed on September 1 to the recipient's school of choice. The grant funds may be used for tuition, fees, room and board (on or off campus), books, supplies, meals, or transportation. The recipient will be requested to furnish a photograph for publicity purposes.
- e. Individuals who are interested in assisting these deserving students may make a tax-deductible donation to the BBFAA USA Educational Grant Program.

IV. Grant Allocation

- a. Grant awards are awarded in June and are valid for one year.
- b. A check in the amount of \$500 will be sent to the college or university bursar in the following September in the student's name.
- c. Grants may be used to pay for tuition or textbook costs related to the degree program.

V. Contact Information

- a. Individuals who are interested in assisting these deserving students may make a tax-deductible donation to the BBFAA USA Educational Grant Program.
- b. To send your application via mail, documents can be sent to:

BBFAA Educational Grant
P.O. Box 227
Tallahassee, FL 32302

The Big Bend Filipino American Association (BBFAA) SY 2025-2026

Evaluation Criteria Guidelines for Essay Submissions

1. Write an original essay for the following topic:

According to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), a tariff is a tax imposed on foreign-made goods, paid by the importing business to its home country's government. The most common kind of tariffs are ad valorem, which are levied as a fixed percentage of the value of the imports.

Imposing high tariffs to foreign countries under the current administration has raised concerns among impacted countries including the Philippines. How will trade tariffs affect the relationship between the Philippines and the US?

2. Write 500 word double-spaced essay original essay answering the question above.
3. Essays will be judged on:
 - a. Quality and comprehensive nature of the essay, including supporting details.
 - b. Organization of paper.
 - c. Basic editing/proofreading of paper (e.g., syntax and grammatical errors).
 - d. Originality. Note: Essays that have been plagiarized will automatically be disqualified.
4. The deadline for submissions is **May 31, 2025**.
5. To send your application via mail, documents can be sent to:

BBFAA Educational Grant
P.O. Box 227
Tallahassee, FL 32302

**The Big Bend Filipino American Association (BBFAA)
Pilar Hinchcliffe Educational Grant Application
2025-2026**

Application Form

I. Applicant Information

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth
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Address

City	State	Zip Code
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Email	Phone Number
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Name of Current High School or College/University	Year in school
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II. School Information

Name of School, College, or University you will be attending in September 2024
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Cumulative GPA: _____	on a scale of:	_____
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College/School	Major
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Expected Graduation Date	Are you including an official or unofficial transcript?
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Educational status at the time this application is being completed (check one):

☐ High School Senior

☐ College Sophomore

☐ College Freshman

☐ College Junior