

Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship #3

These are for Nebraska students only, and the Buffett Foundation gave out over 1,200 of them last year.

Am I eligible? Seniors must....

- Be residents of NE and graduates from a NE high school
- Have a 2.5 GPA
- Be able to show financial need
 - Must have and EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of <\$10,000, which means you and your parents have to complete the FAFSA first. And then you have to get the results back in order to have an EFC. In other words, if you haven't done the FAFSA yet—get on it!!!

What colleges can the scholarship go towards?

- NECC, or any community college in Nebraska
- Wayne State, Chadron State, or Peru State
- UNL, UNO, UNK, UNMC, or NCTA

What's it worth? -the average cost of tuition for 15 credits/semester and fees, which is approx. \$2,000/semester at NECC, \$4,000/semester at WSC, and \$5,000/semester at UNL. It's approximately that much every semester. It's a big deal!

What are the requirements? (ALL ONLINE)

- online application
- two teacher recommendations
- FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR)
- high school transcript
- essay (they tell you what must be covered in the essay)
- all parts submitted by FEB 1 at 5 pm.

Do I have to reapply each semester?

No-once you've received it, it's renewed every semester (5 years for a 4-year degree and 3 years for a 2-year degree)

Most important part of the app? As long as you qualify with an EFC <\$10,000 and have a 2.5 GPA then **the essay** is the single most important criteria.

You'll be asked to give them an e-mail address. Don't use your school email because it goes away after you graduate...?? Give them a different e-mail address, and plan to check that account **OFTEN** because they send out reminders and updates that way.

Most common errors that lead to the denial of the scholarship:

- Error #1:** Essay prompts not all addressed
Advice: Address every question they ask!
- Error #2:** No personal experiences in the essay-too general
Advice: Be specific and include examples. They love little stories, so they feel like they get to know you.
- Error #3:** Incorrect documents uploaded
Advice: After you upload something, look at it to make sure you uploaded what you thought you uploaded.
They want the complete SAR (Student Aid Report)-all pages, not just the front page.
- Error #4:** ineligible (financial need or GPA)
Advice: If your GPA is not 2.5 or higher, there's no point in applying. What if it's 2.4999? Sorry, but you needn't apply. Likewise, if your EFC is \$10,000 or above, don't bother applying.
- Error #5:** failure to officially submit the app when completed
Advice: Keep hitting "submit" until you're positive it went!
- Error #6:** recommenders who can't answer the questions
Advice: Pick people who know you well and can comment on all of the things they're asked to address.
- Error #7:** Procrastination
Advice: The deadline is FEB 1 at 5 PM. A minute late is still late, and it won't be looked at.
- Error #8:** Forgetting to check the "status" page to make sure they're done
Advice: The status page will tell you if you're done. Check it!

There are many students that apply for this scholarship. Get started ASAP though because they're are multiple parts and it's very competitive. First—the FAFSA. Then go to <https://buffettscholarships.org/>.