The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) began its scholarship program in 1961 to motivate committed students to join the effort to ensure California’s water quality through sound management policies. This year, ACWA continues its academic scholarship program by offering a number of scholarships, including the ACWA Scholarship.

Please review the following ACWA scholarship guidelines thoroughly before completing the scholarship application. Applicants who do not meet the minimum eligibility requirements will not be considered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR.

Each year, ACWA awards two $3,500 scholarships to qualified undergraduate students.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
- Applicants must be a California resident at the time of application;
- Applicants must be attending an accredited, University of California or California State University at the start of the academic year covered by the scholarship;
- Applicants must be pursuing an undergraduate degree in a water resources-related field of study related to engineering, agricultural and/or urban water supply, environmental studies or public administration at the start of the academic year covered by the scholarship;
- Applicants must be at least a junior at the start of the academic year covered by the scholarship;
- Applicants must commit to full-time enrollment (12 semester units or 16 quarter units) for the entire academic year covered by the scholarship;
- Applicants must submit at least two current letters of recommendation with at least one of the letters originating from a college professor or employer on business letterhead; all letters of recommendation must include contact information for the letter writer;
- Applicants must submit transcripts for each college they have attended; acceptable formats include photocopied or scanned official transcripts, or unofficial transcripts issued by the school; however, printed class schedules will not be accepted; and
- Applicants must submit an essay responding to a specific prompt (no more than 1,000 words).

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SELECTION
- Scholastic achievement;
- Demonstrated motivation to the vocation of water resources-related management in California;
- The quality of the letters of recommendation;
- The quality of the student’s essay; and
- Commitment to full-time enrollment for the entire academic year covered by the scholarship.

PURPOSE AND DISBURSEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP
Scholarship funds are not disbursed to the student directly. Funds are disbursed to the appropriate Financial Aid Office in a lump sum of $3,500 and must be applied to the student’s account for tuition and fees. Scholarship funds should not be transferred directly to the student or be used for any other purpose. If a scholarship recipient fails to meet the terms of this scholarship in any way, the award may be rescinded.