

2025

ISCA SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Supporting Iowa Students. Celebrating School Counseling.

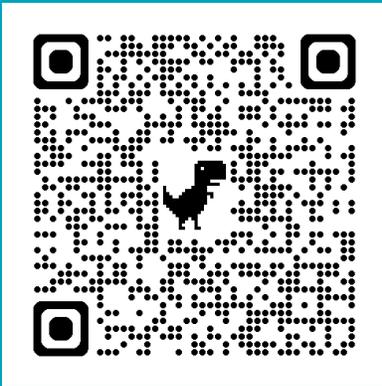


ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP :

ISCA awards this annual scholarship to a graduating Iowa senior who can clearly describe the positive academic, social/emotional, and life-readiness impact of a school counselor or school counseling program.

Amount - \$500

Deadline - January 2, 2026



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS :

To be eligible for the 2026 ISCA Senior Scholarship, you must be a graduating senior attending a public or private high school in Iowa and have been an Iowa resident for at least the past twelve months. Applicants must plan to enroll in a college, university, trade or technical program, apprenticeship, or other recognized post-secondary pathway during the 2026–2027 school year. The selected recipient must also be willing to allow ISCA to share portions of their application responses if selected, as we celebrate the winner during National School Counseling Week.

ESSAY PROMPTS & TIPS:

Strong scholarship responses are clear, specific, and written in your own voice. Reviewers appreciate honest reflection, real examples, and details that help them understand your experience and growth. Be sure to read each prompt carefully, answer every part of the question, and include names or moments that show the real impact school counselors have had on you and your school community. Thoughtful responses often explain why an experience mattered and how it shaped your goals or future plans. Since the application uses character limits, it is important to stay close to the recommended word lengths. We encourage you to prepare your answers in a separate document so that you can revise, proofread, and save your work before copying it into the application form.

1. Impact of School Counseling on Your K-12 Experience

Describe how a school counselor or school counseling team supported your academic, social/emotional, or life-readiness development during your K–12 years. Include specific examples of how their work influenced you or contributed to a positive school environment.

Recommended length: ~300 words

1b. Impact Part Two

Describe one moment you remember from speaking with this counselor in person, or describe a specific memory you have from one of their classroom lessons. Be sure to include the counselor's name and the school you were attending at the time.

Recommended length: ~150 words

2. Contribution to Your School Community

In what ways have you seen your school counselor(s) positively impact your school community as a whole? Consider schoolwide initiatives, culture-building, leadership, advocacy, equity efforts, or support for students and families.

Recommended length: ~200 words

3. Future Plans and Counselor Support

Share your post-secondary plans. How has a school counselor helped you explore your strengths, set goals, overcome challenges, or prepare for your next steps after graduation.

Recommended length: ~200 words

3b. Future Plans Part Two

If we interviewed your best friend, what would they say about your future plans?

Recommended length: ~200 words

4. Scholarship Impact

Explain how receiving the 2026 ISCA Senior Scholarship would impact your education, training, and/or career goals. You may include personal, financial, or motivational factors that demonstrate the importance of this support.

Recommended length: ~200 words

5. "Each and Every Student"

ISCA believes in supporting "each and every" student. Describe a moment when you noticed or appreciated your counselor's efforts to ensure all students felt supported, included, or empowered.

Recommended length: ~150 words