



QUESTIONS ABOUT RENEWING YOUR TRFM SCHOLARSHIP

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will assist you in completing the scholarship renewal process successfully. But if you have other questions that are not fully answered here, please contact The River Fund Maine at executivedirector@riverfundmaine.org.

Do I have to complete a new application form every year?

Yes. Please print out, complete and submit the River Fund Maine Scholarship Renewal Application found on our website riverfundmaine.org. Be sure to include ALL of the required information identified on the application form. To be eligible, you must maintain a 3.0 GPA while carrying a full course load.

Do I have to reapply for FAFSA and other financial support sources every year?

Yes. TRMF expects you to make a concerted effort to identify and apply for all possible funding sources as well as TRFM scholarship. You must meet with your College Financial Services Officer or Guidance Counselor to explore all options available to you every year. You will be asked to certify that you have completed this step in the Application process.

My school offers internships as part of the curriculum. Do I lose part of my scholarship if I accept an internship while enrolled in college?

No. TRFM recognizes that some academic programs intersperse internships as part of the normal curriculum. Your scholarship covers eight semesters, or the equivalent, even if required internships push your calendar timeline beyond the traditional four years of classroom study.

Can I take a “gap year” and still retain my scholarship?

Yes. The scholarship covers up to four academic years, but does not require that those years be consecutive. You may elect to take a Gap Year, but no funding will be available to you for that year. If you plan to take a Gap Year, you should immediately notify The River Fund in writing of your plans and receive written approval to postpone your scholarship for one year. Only one Gap Year will be approved.

Do I automatically lose the scholarship if I transfer?

No. You may attend any accredited four-year college or university you wish. You must, however, notify The River Fund Maine and receive written approval to transfer your scholarship to another school.

Can I choose to live off campus after my Freshman year?

Yes, you may choose to live off campus after your freshman year is completed. However, it is critical that you understand that TRFM will only pay for housing and food cost managed by your school (e.g., the payment for the services is made directly to the school). TRFM will not pay a third-party vendor or reimburse a student or their family for any part of the student's cost of living or subsidize the cost of retaining off-campus housing when you are not currently enrolled in school. If you chose to live off-campus in a living/dining arrangement not managed by your school, you must take the personal responsibility for that cost.

Does my scholarship cover the costs of attending summer school?

Potentially yes. Your scholarship has a total value of up to \$20,000 per year. If the costs of your normal yearly school terms do not equal or exceed that amount, you may apply for additional reimbursement to cover the costs of summer school. However, we encourage you to prioritize using your grant towards the cost of the regular school year since, if you set aside part of your scholarship to attend summer school and then are unable to do so, those monies allocated for the summer program will be lost.

Do I need to submit a special request for summer school?

No special request form for summer school is required. But you must include the planned cost of those summer school classes, as well as for any necessary room and board, when you submit your first term bill from your school and determine how you want to allocate the scholarship award money over the coming academic year. Ask your school to provide guidance on the cost of the classes and room and board for the courses you plan to take during the following summer. If the school's final calendar and cost structure has not be set by the time you receive your fall term bill, ask your school to provide the information from last year's offerings. Keep in mind that the total amount of your full academic year's coursework cannot exceed \$20,000. If you decide during the year not to attend summer school, the money budgeted for that expense will not be dispensed.

If I attend summer school, does it have to be at the same school I normally attend?

No, it does not have to be the same school. However, the credits you earn at another school must be completely transferrable to the degree-granting institution. TRFM scholarship does not pay for non-credit summer programs or non-transferrable course work.

How will the cost of summer school be paid?

The payment process for summer school is identical to that of the regular term. When your school sends you a bill, you submit that bill to TRFM who will, in turn, pay your school directly for your classes.