

2025–2026 Dean Joan Metcalf Schaefer Merit Scholarship

The Dean Joan Metcalf Schaefer Merit Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students who have demonstrated academic excellence and a continuous love of learning. The scholarship is named in honor of Dean Joan Metcalf Schaefer, who served as Dean of Women of the University of Southern California for thirty-seven years. More information about Dean Joan may be obtained from her website at www.deanjoan.net. The merit scholarship varies in amount up to \$7,500.

Applicants for the award must be full-time undergraduate students at the University of Southern California for the 2025–2026 academic year with a major in the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. In addition, they must be of junior or senior standing in the 2025–2026 academic year and must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average in their cumulative academic work at USC. Students who received the award as a junior must submit a new application for their senior year as awards are not guaranteed to be renewed.

To apply, send the following items to the email address listed below. All applications must be received by **Friday, February 21, 2025**. Scholarship finalists will be notified during the week of March 31 and will be invited to schedule an interview with the scholarship committee, which will take place on Saturday, April 12th. This is the only date on which interviews will take place. Scholarship finalists must be interviewed to be considered for a scholarship.

Send application materials to:

scholarships@dornsife.usc.edu

Subject line: Dean Joan Metcalf Schaefer Scholarship

- The application cover sheet, completed and signed.
- A brief resume, including the applicant's academic achievements, involvement in campus and community activities, work experience, and notable interests.
- A printout of the applicant's USC Unofficial Transcript, available on OASIS via the myUSC portal or Advise USC. There is no charge to download an Unofficial Transcript. Please do not submit an official transcript, which requires a fee.
- An essay of no more than 1000 words answering the following question: **"How have your experiences at USC inspired you to make a difference in a world filled with challenges, from local to global levels?"** Please include academic and extra-curricular experiences in your response. Responses to the essay question should not be narrative versions of the applicant's resume. If you applied for the Dean Joan Metcalf Schaefer Merit Scholarship last year, please ensure that your essay for this year's application has new content and is not a duplicate of the prior year's essay.
- One letter of recommendation from a USC faculty member. The purpose of this letter is to provide additional evidence of the applicant's commitment to academic excellence. The letter should come from a member of the faculty who knows the applicant well enough to comment on his or her commitment. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure the letter is submitted by the scholarship application deadline.
- A copy of the applicant's current 2024-2025 Financial Aid Summary from OASIS. Existing merit awards that may be renewed should be highlighted directly on this document.

Incomplete or late applications for merit scholarships will not be considered by the scholarship review committee.

If you have questions, contact USC Dornsife Admission and Student Success at scholarships@dornsife.usc.edu.

**2025–2026 Dean Joan Metcalf Schaefer Merit Scholarship
Application Cover Sheet**

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Local Address: _____

Local Phone Number: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Permanent Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____ Student ID#: _____

Declared Dornsife Major: _____ Cumulative USC GPA: _____

Class Standing in 2025–2026 (circle one): Junior Senior

All of the information provided by me in my application is correct and I hereby give permission to USC Dornsife Admission and Student Success and the Dean Joan Metcalf Schaefer Scholarship Committee to verify my academic and financial aid status.

Signature _____

Date _____