



English

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

English Undergraduate Scholarships

General Information

- ❖ Eligible undergraduate students are encouraged to apply for English Department Scholarships & Awards during our annual application cycle each spring.
- ❖ *Applicants should apply to all English scholarships for which they qualify. Please review the qualification checklists below for specific eligibility requirements.*
- ❖ *Applicants may submit the same original work for multiple English Department awards.*
- ❖ Students must apply for English Undergraduate Scholarships via Buff Portal. For a step-by-step scholarship application tutorial, download this PDF: [Accessing the Scholarship Application in Buff Portal](#).
- ❖ These awards, like any student prize or scholarship given through the university, will be credited to the selected winners via their account at the Bursar's Office to be applied to their student tuition for the upcoming academic year.
- ❖ For more information on CU Boulder's scholarship cycle, visit [CU Boulder Scholarships](#).
- ❖ Applications for these awards will be accepted in Spring 2026 and distributed in the Academic Year 2026-2027.

Eligibility Qualifications & Submission Requirements



The Alex McGuiggan Scholarship

Amount up to \$1200 (2 awards)

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be currently enrolled on the Boulder campus as full-time students. Good academic standing is required.
- Applicants must be planning to graduate no earlier than the spring of the next academic year (one year after the award cycle in which they submitted an application).
- Applicants must have a declared major in the English Department and have already been admitted to the Creative Writing track.
- Applicants must have taken/be enrolled in at least one Creative Writing poetry workshop (ENGL 2021, 3021, and/or 4021) to demonstrate an interest in writing poetry.

Submission Requirements:

- Submit between five and ten pages of poems titled and formatted, as they would appear in publication.
- The first page of your poetry submission should be an index of all poems contained in your submission.
- All poems must be strung together into one document.
- Insert a header with the name of the award in the upper right corner of each page.
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 5) in the lower right corner of each page.
- No extraneous marks, grades, names or other identifying information should be included on the pages of poetry.
- Save your submission as a PDF titled: YourLastName_McGuiggan



The Curtis Michael Gimeno Memorial Scholarship

Amount *up to* \$3100 (1 award)

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be currently enrolled on the Boulder campus as full-time students. Good academic standing is required.
- Applicants must currently be either a sophomore or a junior, graduating no earlier than the spring of the next academic year (one year after the award cycle in which they submitted an application).
- Applicants must have a declared major in the English Department and have already been admitted to the Creative Writing track.
- Applicants must have taken/be enrolled in the Introductory Fiction Workshop (ENGL 2051).

Submission Requirements:

Creative submission:

- One (only) of the following: one short story, a piece of creative non-fiction, or a segment of a stage or screenplay.
- All creative works must be titled and formatted, as they would appear in publication. No extraneous marks, grades, names or other identifying information should be included.
- Insert a header with the name of the award in the upper right corner of each page.
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 5) in the lower right corner of each page.
- Save your creative submission as a PDF titled: YourLastName_Gimeno

Personal statement:

- Up to two pages (typed, double-spaced) outlining your creative aspirations.
- Insert a header that includes the name of the award, your first initial and last name in the upper right corner of each page (e.g. J. Doe, Gimeno Memorial Scholarship).
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 5) in the lower right corner of each page.
- Save as a PDF titled: YourLastName_GimenoStatement



The Dick Shahan CU-Boulder Undergraduate Writing Competition

Amount *up to* \$1200 (2 awards)

Qualifications:

- The competition is open to undergraduate students currently enrolled in an English course at the CU-Boulder campus (status can be part-time or full-time).
- Applicants must be graduating no earlier than the spring of the next academic year (one year after the award cycle in which they submitted an application).
- You may submit a piece you wrote in the past, so long as it follows the submission requirements detailed below.

Submission Requirements:

- Submit between 12 - 20 pages (typed, double-spaced) of prose.
- Applicants may choose from these genres of writing: realistic or experimental fiction, fantasy, satire, regular or creative non-fiction, or critical essay or article (with a research-and-appropriate-notes component). Entries will be in prose form only; no poetry, screenplays, scripts, or multimedia works are eligible.
- Entry can be written prior to the competition and can be a paper submitted for a class.
- Insert a header that includes the name of the award, your first initial and last name in the upper right corner of each page (e.g., J. Doe, Shahan CW Competition).
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 5) in the lower right corner of each page.
- Save document as PDF titled: YourLastName_ShahanUG



The Gentian Ascension Scholarship

Amount *up to* \$1600 (1 award)

Qualifications:

- Applicants should demonstrate budding talent as a writer.
- Applicants must be currently enrolled on the Boulder campus. Good academic standing is required.
- Applicants must have a declared major in the English Department, either Literature or Creative Writing track.
- Applicants must currently be either a junior or senior, graduating no earlier than the spring of the next academic year (one year after the award cycle in which they submitted an application).
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate having overcome academic obstacles (ideally through grades).

Submission Requirements:

1. Personal narrative:

- Up to two pages (typed, double-spaced) outlining your qualifications for this scholarship.
- This narrative should include a comparison of grades that demonstrates having overcome an academic obstacle.
- Insert a header that includes the name of the award, your first initial and last name in the upper right corner of each page (e.g., J. Doe, Gentian Ascension).
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 2) in the lower right corner of each page.
- Save document as PDF titled: YourLastName_GentianNarrative

2. Writing sample:

- Up to five pages (typed, double-spaced) that demonstrates talent as a writer.
- The writing sample should be a clean copy with no extraneous comments, marks, or grades on it. The genre is not restricted; it can include literary criticism, poetry, fiction, drama etc.
- Insert a header that includes the name of the award, your first initial and last name in the upper right corner of each page (e.g., J. Doe, Gentian Ascension).
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 5) in the lower right corner of each page.
- Save document as PDF titled YourLastName_GentianWritingSample

3. Current Degree Audit:

- Submit a current and complete Degree Audit.
- Title "Degree Audit for Gentian Ascension Award."
- Save document as PDF titled YourLastName_GentianDegreeAudit



The Harold D. Kelling Essay Prize

Amount *up to* \$800 (1 award)

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be currently enrolled on the Boulder campus as full-time students. Good academic standing is required.
- Applicants must currently be either a junior or senior, graduating no earlier than the spring of the next academic year (one year after the award cycle in which they submitted an application).

Submission Requirements:

- An essay (short stories, etc., are not eligible) written for a University of Colorado Boulder English Department class.
- The essay may have been written at any time during the applicant's career at the university.
- No extraneous marks or grades should be included on your essay.
- Insert a header that includes the name of the award, your first initial and last name in the upper right corner of each page (e.g., J. Doe, Kelling Essay Prize).
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 5) in the lower right corner of each page.
- Save your essay as a PDF titled: YourLastName_Kelling



The Robert Manford Tobin, Jr. Scholarship

Amount *up to* \$1200 (1 award)

Qualifications:

- Entering freshmen and continuing students are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must have a declared English major (Creative Writing Track) in Arts and Sciences on the Boulder campus.
- Award winners must be enrolled as full-time students and must remain in good academic standing for the duration of the award (fall and spring of the following academic year).
- Applicants must have a graduation date no earlier than the spring of the next academic year (one year after the award cycle in which they submitted an application).
- Preference will be given to residents of Colorado, and past Tobin scholars who maintain a 2.80 or better GPA and competitively reapply for continuation of the scholarship.

Submission Requirements:

- Submit a creative writing short story (5 – 10 pages, typed, double-spaced) titled and formatted, as it would appear in publication.
- No extraneous marks, grades, names or other identifying information should be included on the pages of your submission.
- Insert a header with the name of the award in the upper right corner of each page.
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 5) in the lower right corner of each page.
- Save your essay as a PDF titled: YourLastName_Tobin



Jovanovich Imaginative Writing Award Competition

Amount *up to* \$1300 (2 awards)

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be currently enrolled on the Boulder campus as full-time students. Good academic standing is required.
- Applicants must currently be either a junior or a senior, graduating no earlier than the spring of the next academic year (one year after the award cycle in which they submitted an application).
- Applicants must either have a declared major in the English Department (Creative Writing track).

Submission Requirements:

- One (only) of the following: three poems, one short story, a piece of creative non-fiction, or a segment of a stage or screenplay.
- All creative works must be titled and formatted as they would appear in publication.
- No extraneous marks, grades, names or other identifying information should be included.
- Insert a header with the name of the award in the upper right corner of each page.
- Insert page numbers (e.g., page 1 of 5) in the lower right corner of each page.
- Save your submission as a PDF titled: YourLastName_Jovanovich



Martin Luther King, Jr. English Literature Scholarship

Amount *up to* \$5000 (2 awards)

The donors of the Martin Luther King, Jr. English Literature Scholarship wish to provide undergraduate scholarship awards for students pursuing an English Literature degree in the Department of English within the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Qualifications:

- Applicants will be students who are either employed part-time or participating in a work-study program.

Preference given to Colorado residents.

Entering Freshmen and continuing students are eligible

Personal Statement:

- Please submit a 500-word personal statement describing how the MLK Jr. Scholarship will make a difference to you. How will it change your trajectory going forward? How might it be a life-changing gift?

Submission Requirements:

- Please submit the assignment that you have completed for an English class that you are most proud of.
- Your submission could be a paper, a creative work, or a project, including a web page, audio, or video.
- There is no minimum or maximum length. If you choose to submit an audio or video sample, please indicate a link that will take readers to your sample in the document you upload in the application or send an audio or video file to ssengl@colorado.edu. **Please include “MLK, Jr. Scholarship” in the subject field.**
- If you send your sample to that email address, you can upload a document in the application indicating that you did so.

Awards Offers by Invitation or Nomination Only

The Joanne Easley Arnold Award *(invitation only)*

Amount *up to* \$2000 (2 awards)

Top performing students in the English Department's gateway courses (ENGL 2102 and ENGL 2112) will be invited by to apply for this prestigious award.

Applicants may only apply for this award when invited by the English Department. Special application instructions will be included with the invitation. Included in this invitation will be to submit an essay.

Qualifications:

Applicants will be students with a sophomore class standing or higher
Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher