

Office of Graduate and Professional Studies
Jim and Lyra Watwood Educational Excellence Scholarship Application

2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 23, 2026

Jim and Lyra Watwood Educational Excellence Scholarship Criteria and General Instructions

Amount: up to \$3,000

Applicants must:

- Be pursuing a graduate degree in biology, chemistry, or forestry.
- Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or greater.
- Satisfactory progress toward degree completion as declared by the advisor.

Please read and follow all instructions carefully.

- Fill in all fields on the application. Type N/A where not applicable. Incomplete applications may not be considered.
- All communications regarding this scholarship will go to your NAU student email.
- All admitted NAU students have both an NAU ID number (a seven or eight digit number with only numbers) and an NAU student email address (e.g., abc232@nau.edu). Both of these must be included on your application where indicated.
- If you are graduating prior to the Fall 2026 semester, you are not eligible for this scholarship.
- This scholarship is available only to students who will be enrolled in classes full time for the Fall 2026 and/or Spring 2027 semesters. Awards can only be disbursed for one or both of these semesters.
- All applications require the completion of an online application form.
- All applications require a personal statement of 1000 words or less discussing educational goals, professional aspirations, and an explanation of your situation as it relates to financing your NAU education. This statement is to be emailed to GradAwards@nau.edu at the time of application submission.
- Please contact GradAwards@nau.edu with any questions regarding this scholarship.
- Award decisions will be communicated to all applicants.

Checklist for application submission:

- Completed Application Form
- Additional Information & Personal Statement (details below)

Application Form Instructions

You will need to know the following information to complete the *Jim & Lyra Watwood Excellence Scholarship Application Form*; please be sure to have all of the required information **before** accessing the application link:

- whether you will be a full-time (9+ credits) student in both Fall 2026 and Spring 2027
- whether you are in [good academic standing](#)
- whether you have any [academic integrity violations](#)
- whether you *currently* have a graduate assistantship in 2026-2027
- whether you will have a graduate assistantship or a tuition waiver for 2026-2027
- whether you will be receiving other types of funding in 2026-2027
- whether you are eligible for tuition benefits through employment, or as a dependent, domestic partner, or a spouse of an employee at a state university in Arizona
- your previous collegiate educational background, including dates of attendance and GPA at each institution
- scholarship and financial aid awards and amounts that you have applied for or know that you will receive for the 2026-2027 academic year

To access the Application Form (this may require you to log-in to your NAU Google account):

Click the link: [Jim and Lyra Watwood Educational Excellence Scholarship Application](#)

Additional Information & Personal Statement Guidelines

ONE PDF of **no more than 2 pages, single spaced** that has the following five sections *in the following order*:

- (1) your full name and 7-digit NAU ID
- (2) a list of past collegiate honors and awards (include semester and year),
- (3) a list of current or past significant research, scholarship, or creative activities related to degree or field (include semester and year),
- (4) a list of current or past extra- or co-curricular activities, including community service and volunteer activities (include semester and year), and
- (5) Provide a personal statement of 1000 words or less; in this statement, we would like to see a holistic picture of you and your academic journey to date. Your statement should include, but is not limited to, the following information:
 - Why you are pursuing a graduate degree in your discipline;
 - The relationship between your degree and your career goals;
 - How you hope to impact your discipline and/or society as a whole;
 - The impact receiving this scholarship would have.

Please email the PDF of the Additional Information & Personal Statement to GradAwards@nau.edu.