The Fourth Pillar Scholars Program recognizes the commitment of students and families to education and formation in schools where the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia serve as teachers and administrators. The Fourth Pillar Scholars Program provides opportunities for graduates of the Dominican Sisters’ schools to build upon the foundation they received in elementary and/or secondary school by attending Aquinas College at a discounted rate, depending upon the number of years in attendance at a school staffed by the Sisters.

Scholarship recipients participate as mentors and leaders in the Fourth Pillar Program of service leadership that promotes lifelong, reflective service in a variety of local, national and international settings. The scholarship is renewable up to eight semesters of undergraduate study at Aquinas College.

Scholarship Criteria and Terms

- To maintain this scholarship, students must keep a 3.25 cumulative GPA, be enrolled full-time and actively participate in the Fourth Pillar Program.
- Students with at least 12 years of education at an elementary and/or high school can be considered for a scholarship equal to a 75% discount on the published tuition rate at Aquinas College.
- Students with a minimum of 8 years of education at an elementary and/or high school can be considered for a scholarship equal to a 50% discount on the published tuition rate at Aquinas College.
- Students with a minimum of 4 years of education at a high school can be considered for a scholarship equal to a 25% discount on the published tuition rate at Aquinas College.

The scholarship cannot be awarded during the summer term.

To be considered for this scholarship, applicants must follow the regular admission process to Aquinas College and submit all requested documentation and the essay to the Office of Admissions.

Recipients must

- be a recent graduate of high school.
- have documentation verifying a minimum number of years of education at an elementary and/or a high school where the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia are on mission.
- have earned at least a 3.25 final cumulative GPA from high school if applying to an undergraduate program or a 3.25 final cumulative GPA from
- submit a 500 word response essay on a service learning related topic.
- have scored at least a 27 composite on the ACT or 1210 (math and critical reading combined) on the SAT.
- be a practicing Catholic. This requirement can be met by submitting a letter of verification from the student’s pastor or principal.
- submit a letter of recommendation from either a parish priest, Dominican Sister from the St. Cecilia Congregation, or a theology teacher.

Eligible Schools

Nashville, Tennessee: Overbrook School, St. Cecilia Academy, St. Joseph School, St. Henry School, St. Patrick School, and St. Rose of Lima School

Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia: St. Catherine of Siena School

Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland: Mount de Sales Academy

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio: St. Gertrude School

Archdiocese of Denver, Colorado: St. Vincent DePaul School and Bishop Machebeuf High School

Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri: St. Joseph Catholic School

Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota: St. Croix School

Archdiocese of Vancouver, British Columbia: Our Lady of the Assumption School, Cloverdale Catholic School, and St. Patrick's School

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas: Frassati Catholic High School

Diocese of Arlington, Virginia: St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School, and Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School

Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama: St. Rose Academy and John Carroll Catholic High School

Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina: St. Mary School

Diocese of Joliet, Illinois: St. Jude School, and St. Dominic School

Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee: St. Mary School, Knoxville Catholic High School, Notre Dame High School

Diocese of Lafayette, Indiana: Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, and St. Theodore Guerin High School

Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee: St. Mary's School, St. Paul School, St. Benedict's High School

Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island: St. Pius V Catholic School

Diocese of Richmond, Virginia: St. Mary Star of the Sea School, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel School