



Scholarship Application
for school year of 2025
is due July 11, 2025.



TIP SHEET

MOST OF THE QUESTIONS YOU WILL HAVE ARE ANSWERED HERE. READ THIS SHEET CAREFULLY.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have or help you in any way we can.

You can contact George Moreno or Mena Perez with any questions at our office phone at 847-577-6464 or via email at George@itharacing.com or Mena@itharacing.com

You should order your transcripts at least two weeks before the scholarship applications are due because transcripts will generally take between 2 – 14 days to be delivered. Nearly every school allows you to order transcripts online. The best way to get those transcripts to us is electronically. Have them sent directly from the school to George@itharacing.com or Mena@itharacing.com

When we ask for your GPA, we need it on a 4.0 scale. If your school operates on a 5.0 scale, you simply divide your GPA by 5 and multiply by 4. Example: if your GPA is 4.3/5, your 4.0 scale GPA would be 3.44.

The calculations would be as follows:

$$(4.3/5) = .86 * 4 = 3.44.$$

We need an address to the appropriate department for your school to process the scholarship check. Please understand that if you do not provide this address, we CANNOT send a check. Additionally, if you provide the wrong address, it will delay the time it takes for the check to be processed.

If you change schools AFTER the scholarship deadline it will certainly delay the time it takes to process the scholarship and could potentially cause you to lose the scholarship, or the amount to be reduced.

Taxes – The Federal deadline for income taxes was April 15th, 2025, please provide your parents' 2024 taxes **if they claim you as a dependent, or your 2024 taxes if you filed separately. We will need the W2's or 1099's from the employers at the race track.**

All documents must be turned in before the deadline or the scholarship application will be considered incomplete. If you are mailing, or having someone deliver documents on your behalf, please contact us at our office to confirm delivery.



APPLICATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE A SCHOLARSHIP

Eligibility Criteria

1. Applicant's parents must be Illinois residents with an Illinois state identification card or a driver's license.
2. Applicants must be 26 years of age or under at the time of the scholarship deadline.
3. The applicant or at least one of the applicant's parents must be licensed by the IRB as a Trainer, Assistant Trainer, Vet Assistant, Foreman, Groom, Exercise Person, Pony Person, or Hot Walker.

Parents of dependents or applicants must be licensed in Illinois and have worked at Hawthorne during 2024 and 2025.

4. The applicant must attend an accredited trade school, college, or university and designate whether it is a two-year program leading to an associate degree or a four-year program leading to a bachelor's degree.
5. Household income may not exceed \$100,000 per year to qualify.

MUST BE EMAILED OR POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025. Mailing address: IBCF, 7301 West 25th Street, Suite 321, North Riverside, IL 60546. Email to: George@itharacing.com

Failure to submit **ALL** documents by **July 11, 2025**, will result in an incomplete application and the applicant will **NOT** be considered for the prospective scholarship.

Types of Scholarships Available

A minimum of a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale is required for all scholarships:

- Two Year Program
- Four Year Program
- Graduate Program
- Equine Veterinary Scholarship
- Trade School (Farrier, Automotive, Electrician, Plumbing, Computer Information Systems, HVAC Technician, etc.)
- Equine/Agricultural Major

Entries will be evaluated by the Scholarship Committee of the IBCF. Scholarship amounts range from \$1,000 to \$6,000 and will be awarded based on GPA, quality of work submitted, academic record, financial need, and community involvement.

Two-year students and trade-school students will be limited to three years of scholarships and Four-year students will be limited to 6 years of scholarships. All students will be capped at 6 years of scholarships.

All questions should be referred to the ITHA office or call (847) 577-6464. If you are having trouble obtaining any documents, please let us know at least a week before the application due date.



Scholarship Application for school year of 2025

Creative Prompts

We are requesting you be creative with your scholarship submissions. However, here are some guidelines:

Option 1 - Create a video

The video should be a minimum of 3 minutes with a maximum of 5 minutes. The video can be about any of the following topics, or a combination of the following topics: horse racing, life on the backstretch, and/or your career goals and how they will improve the backstretch community.

Option 2 - Write and recite a poem

Essentially, the same rules as the video but this can be audio only. It could be a cappella or accompanied by music (nothing copyrighted). The poem or song should be a minimum of 3 minutes with a maximum of 5 minutes. The poem can be about any of the following topics, or a combination of the following topics: horse racing, life on the backstretch, and/or your career goals and how they will improve the backstretch community.

Option 3 - Artistic expression

Compile a small portfolio showcasing your best artwork. This could include drawings, paintings, or sculptures, or another form of visual art, however pictures are not allowed as they are too easy to submit. This art will be showcased at the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association office for people to admire.

Option 4 - Interview an individual you consider to be a mentor. Via audio/video presentation, then describe the impact that person has had on your decisions and goals.

Other options:

If you have another idea or project, feel free to contact George Moreno at George@itharacing.com and ask questions.



Scholarship Application for school year of 2025

Checklist

Please attach this checklist to the front of your application package.

Date

Full Name of Applicant

Age

Type of School

Two-Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equine Veterinary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Four-Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equine / Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>
Graduate Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farrier or Trade	<input type="checkbox"/>

New Applicants

Returning Applicants

IBCF Scholarship Application		IBCF Scholarship Application	
Official High School and College Transcripts		Official College Transcripts	
GPA (on a 4.0 scale)		GPA (on a 4.0 scale)	
Letter of Acceptance		Class Schedule	
Class Schedule		Tax Returns Tax Returns (Including W2's or 1099's)	
Letter of Recommendation (Signed and sealed)		Copies of Illinois IDs	
Tax Returns (Including W2's or 1099's)		Copies of 2025 IRB License	
Copies of Illinois IDs		Creative Submission	
Copies of 2025 IRB License			
Creative Submission			

Notes:

Note: Certain colleges or universities require scholarship grantors (in this case the IBCF) to use specific forms when giving a scholarship. It is YOUR responsibility to contact the Accounts Receivable Department of your school and ask if there is any special form we must use. If so, please make a note on this page and attach the form or email the link to the form to George@itharacing.com



Scholarship Application **for school year of 2025**

General Scholar Information

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Social Security Number	Date of Birth	Age
Phone Number	Email Address	
Street Address		
City	State	Zip Code
(Circle one) Have you ever worked at the racetrack?		Yes No
Occupation:	Employer:	Dates of Employment:
Occupation:	Employer:	Dates of Employment:

Please list any volunteer, community service, extra-curricular activities, or organizations you are a member of.

Students are strongly encouraged to volunteer in their community and/or the IBCF programs

Name of Organization

Contact Person

Phone Number or Email

How many years have you received a scholarship from ITHA Related organizations (CTHF or IBCF)?

What is the total amount you have received over the course of those years?

Will you be available to pick up the scholarship check in person?

Will you provide the IBCF with material for our social media (i.e., a picture of you on your first day back at school)?

Do you agree to provide the IBCF with a picture of you when you graduate?



Scholarship Application **for school year of 2025**

Parent(s) Information

Parent/Guardian 1:

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Date of Birth	Phone Number	Email Address
Street Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Length of time employed at Chicago-Area racetracks: _____		
Occupation	Current Employer	
<u>Employer</u>	List any other employers in the past 12 months	<u>Months Employed</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Parent/Guardian 2:

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Date of Birth	Phone Number	Email Address
Street Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Length of time employed at Chicago-Area racetracks: _____		
Occupation	Current Employer	
<u>Employer</u>	List any other employers in the past 12 months	<u>Months Employed</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Reminder: We need a copy of your parents' Illinois IDs and IRB IDs



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Academic Record Information

Current University

Please write below the name of the college/university where this check should be mailed exactly as it should be written on the envelope.

Name of College/University

Address of College/University (Is there a specific department, building or person?)

City

State

Zip Code

Current Cumulative GPA

Expected Graduation Date

Please list any other colleges or universities attended, starting most recent first.

Name of College / University

Location (State/City)

Year(s) Attended

High School Information

High School Name

Graduation Date

Cumulative GPA

High School Address

Scholar Agreement

I have read and understood every part of this scholarship application. To the best of my knowledge all information is current and correct. I understand that my creative submission(s) might be shared with third parties (i.e., legislators, public media, and/or social media) and I might be contacted by the ITHA or IBCF for a follow up interview. I understand lying, omitting, or misconstruing any information on this application can cause it to be rejected or cause future scholarship applications to be denied.

Signature

Date