



MSBA FutureBuilders Scholarship

Rubric for Scoring Applications

Scoring applies to the student's four written responses and letter of recommendation. Each of the six criteria below is scored on a scale of 1 to 5, for a total possible score of 30 points.

Written Response 1: Description of Challenge or Adversity & Its Impact

Describe a significant challenge or adversity that you have experienced or may continue to be experiencing. Explain the impact the challenge or adversity has had on your life and development as a young adult.

Level	Descriptor
5	Demonstrates a compelling and detailed description of the challenge or adversity; clearly explains its impact on the student's life and development as a young adult; demonstrates deep reflection and insight.
4	Clearly describes the challenge or adversity and its impact; shows thoughtful reflection on how the experience affected the student's development.
3	Describes the challenge or adversity and provides some explanation of its impact, but lacks depth, detail, or clarity.
2	Offers a vague or underdeveloped description; provides minimal explanation of the impact on the student's life or development.
1	Shows little to no detail about the challenge or adversity or its impact; the response is unclear or missing.

Written Response 2: Response to Challenge & Lessons Learned

Describe how you navigated the challenge or adversity. Detail the lessons you have learned and the skills or insights you have gained.

Level	Descriptor
5	Demonstrates a thoughtful and detailed account of how the student navigated the challenge; clearly articulates meaningful lessons learned and specific skills or insights gained.
4	Clearly describes how the challenge was navigated and identifies meaningful lessons, skills, or insights gained from the experience.
3	Describes the general approach taken to navigate the challenge and identifies some lessons, skills, or insights, but lacks depth, detail, or clarity.
2	Offers a vague or underdeveloped explanation of how the challenge was navigated; provides limited reflection on lessons, skills, or insights gained.
1	Shows little understanding or explanation of how the challenge was navigated or what was learned; the response is unclear, incomplete, or missing.

Written Response 3: Resilience and Personal Growth

Explain how navigating the challenge or adversity has shaped your resilience and personal growth, and how you plan to use that knowledge toward your future academic or career goals.

Level	Descriptor
5	Demonstrates a clear and thoughtful connection between the experience, the student's resilience, and personal growth; shows strong self-awareness and clearly explains how the lessons learned will inform future academic or career goals.
4	Clearly explains how the experience shaped resilience and personal growth and makes a meaningful connection to future academic or career goals.
3	Describes personal growth or resilience and identifies some connection to future goals, but lacks depth, detail, or reflection.
2	Offers a limited or underdeveloped explanation of growth, resilience, or how the experience may influence future goals.
1	Shows little understanding or explanation of personal growth, resilience, or future application; the response is unclear, incomplete, or missing.

Written Response 4: Advice to Others

Describe the advice you would give to another young person who is facing a similar challenge or adversity. Include actions that person should and should not take in navigating the challenge or adversity.

Level	Descriptor
5	Demonstrates thoughtful, empathetic, and practical advice grounded in the student's own experience; clearly identifies helpful actions to take and actions to avoid.
4	Clearly provides meaningful advice that reflects the student's experience and includes useful guidance about what someone should and should not do.
3	Describes generally helpful advice and identifies some actions to take or avoid, but lacks depth, specificity, or reflection.
2	Offers vague or underdeveloped advice with limited connection to the student's experience or limited guidance about actions to take or avoid.
1	Shows little meaningful advice or guidance; the response is unclear, disconnected from the experience, incomplete, or missing.

Letter of Recommendation: Relationship & Context

Level	Descriptor
5	Provides a clear and detailed explanation of the recommender's role and depth of relationship with the student; demonstrates meaningful familiarity with the student and their experiences.
4	Clearly describes a positive and relevant relationship with the student and provides helpful context for the recommendation.
3	Describes the relationship in general terms but provides limited insight into the student or the depth of the connection.
2	Offers a vague or limited explanation of the relationship; familiarity with the student appears minimal or distant.
1	Shows little to no meaningful relationship or familiarity with the student; the relationship is unclear or not stated.

Letter of Recommendation: Understanding of the Student's Adversity

Level	Descriptor
5	Provides meaningful, respectful insight into the student's challenge or adversity and clearly illustrates how the student responded, demonstrated resilience or personal growth, and positively impacted others; offers compelling evidence of why the student is a strong scholarship candidate.
4	Clearly describes the student's challenge and response and provides relevant examples of resilience, growth, character, or positive impact.
3	Describes the student's challenge and response in general terms but provides limited examples or insight into growth, character, or impact.
2	Offers vague or limited information about the student's challenge, response, or personal qualities.
1	Shows little meaningful understanding of the student's challenge or how the student responded; provides minimal insight into the student's character or candidacy.