

**WALTER O. MASON EDUCATION FOUNDATION &
MATTHEW W. TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP 2024 COMPETITION**

Selection Criteria & Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a 2023-2024 currently enrolled high school senior or college student.
2. Applicant must have a 2024-2025 completed FAFSA submitted.
3. Applicant must demonstrate extracurricular and community involvement.
4. Applicant must be a TRIO participant with active participation for *at least one year*.
5. If selected, the applicant must provide proof of enrollment at a postsecondary institution for the fall 2024 semester.

Guidelines:

1. Each program may submit a maximum of two applications and shall establish its own criteria for determining which two applications are forwarded to the scholarship committee. Please note students will need to submit each requested document below as a separate pdf file. Program Director's are responsible for collecting and reviewing the applications to select the two they wish to be considered for the scholarship competition.
2. Applications (maximum of two) recommended by the Program Director must be submitted by the student with the assistance of the Program Director via the AwardSpring scholarship portal (<https://txtrio.awardspring.com/>) by March 29, 2024. The Program Director will need to assist the student in registering an account with the AwardSpring scholarship portal from the link above to submit scholarship documents from the application checklist below. The student will create an account with their email address and upload each document in pdf format (7 total documents).
3. The Texas TRIO Association Scholarship Committee will review and rank all submitted applications. The highest-ranking application will be awarded the Walter O. Mason Scholarship funded by the Walter O'Mason Foundation. Other deserving applications (in subsequent order) will receive the Matthew W. Taylor scholarship funded by Texas TRIO Association. The number of Matthew W. Taylor scholarship winners will be determined by the Texas TRIO Association board.
4. The Scholarship Committee will submit the application rankings to the Texas TRIO Association Board. The Scholarship Chairs will contact the TRIO Directors and Scholarship Recipients in May 2024.
5. Program Director/staff who recommended scholarships must be a Texas TRIO Association member in good standing.

Application Checklist (please save and submit each document below as pdf's):

1	Personal statement (Topic and formatting requirement provided below)
2	Resume (Formatting requirement provided below)
3	Copy of only the first page of 2024-25 Student Aid Report (Must include EFC)
4	Transcript (GED results, high school or college transcript - unofficial transcripts accepted)
5,6	Two recommendation letters (Must include one TRIO staff recommendation - <i>please note that the TRIO staff must be a Texas TRIO Association member in good standing- membership verified by Texas TRIO Association Board Secretary</i>)
7	Texas TRIO Association Name and Picture Release Form (Form provided below)

Personal Statement Topic and Format:

- Write a personal statement explaining how TRIO has changed your life and how TRIO is preparing you or has prepared you to reach your future goals.
- Format: Typed, one-inch margins, double spaced with a 12pt font, Times New Roman. Include applicant's name, TRIO project, and institution as a header or a title on each page. Minimum of one page; maximum of two pages double spaced.

Writing Tips for Personal Statement:

- Writing should demonstrate a logical arrangement of information: effective transition and a flow of general ideas to specific conclusions.
- Writing should demonstrate an understanding of the addressed subject and use effective supporting statements - relevant details and/or examples.
- Writing should illustrate the applicant's insight, creativity, thoughtfulness or originality expressed in his/her own words.
- Writing should incorporate active voice where appropriate and have an insignificant number of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.

Scholarship Resume Format:

Full Name
Mailing Address
Email
Contact phone number

Education:

High School
Class of XXXX
GPA

Class Office
Position(s)
Year(s)
Duties
or
N/A

Extracurricular Activities:

Club name(s)
Position(s)
Year(s)
Duties
or
N/A

Sports played
Position(s)
Year(s)
Duties
or
N/A

Community Service:

High School
Organization name – Estimated hours of service
When, Where, Dates
What did you do, who and how many people do you help?

Awards/Honors:

What kind of award? Why are you being honored?
Year(s) of award/honor

**Texas TRIO Association
Name and Picture Release Form**

I _____ Do _____ Do not _____ give permission to the
Applicant Name

Texas TRIO Association if I'm a TRIO scholarship winner to use my name and picture(s) on the association's website and social media for promoting TRIO programs.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent Signature required (if student is under 18 years old)

Date

An applicant's decision to give or to withhold permission for the use of his/her name and picture will NOT affect the application scoring.