

## GAINING GROUND SCHOLARSHIP

**Application Deadline: April 3, 2026**

Please read the instructions below & submit all the following items before the deadline:

☐ **Completed and Signed Application Form (See pg. 4-8)**

☐ One letter of recommendation from a teacher, school official, or academic mentor. Your letter of recommendation must be dated **no earlier than January 1, 2026**. You may also include additional letters of recommendation from other persons who are familiar with your goals. All recommendation letters must be in a sealed envelope signed by the originator on the outside flap along the seam as shown.

Example:



☐ **OFFICIAL copy of high school transcript(s) or college transcript(s)**  
Unofficial transcripts & online grades will NOT be accepted. **Please keep in mind that it may take the academic office 1-3 weeks to fulfill your official transcript request.** You should contact the registrar's office with ample time to ensure that Gain FCU receives your official transcripts by the deadline.

If you are entering your first year at a college, university, or technical school, you may provide your high school transcripts. All other participants must submit their college transcripts.

☐ **Copy of acceptance letter AND proof of enrollment from educational institution, if possible.** You must not only include your acceptance letter, but also show proof that you have accepted the offer & enrolled for the Fall 2026. Below is a list of acceptable proof of enrollment:

- A class schedule that shows your enrolled courses for Fall 2026
  - **Your full name and the school's name must be clearly visible**
- A proof of enrollment letter from your college student affairs or admissions office stating that you are enrolled as a student for the Fall 2026. This letter must:
  - be on school letterhead or
  - display a school seal or logo or
  - Contain a signature and phone number from the admissions office

## ***Personal Statement***



In your own words, please write a one page essay addressing all the following topics:

- What are your long-term goals and professional ambitions?
- Why do you want to continue your education?
- Which college, university, or technical school do you plan to attend and why?
- How will the Gaining Ground Scholarship Award help you reach your academic goals?
- **For Independent Advantage applicants only, please answer the following question below:**
  - **What did you learn from attending Independent Advantage classes that could help you in your future?**

Also, you may want to consider addressing any of the following topics below:

- What have you accomplished in your community or school that relates to the career field you are pursuing?
- What factors, experiences, or beliefs have influenced/contributed to your career choice (If undecided, you may discuss majors/fields you are willing to consider)

## **Previous Scholarship Recipients:**

If you are a previous scholarship winner, you must write a new personal statement that answers the questions above and reflects on your college experience. You should also include in your personal statement how receiving the Gaining Ground Scholarship Award in the past helped you pursue a higher education.



Gain Federal Credit Union

## Application Information and Regulations

Established in 1940, formerly known as Burbank City Employees Federal Credit Union was formed by a group of City workers who joined together by pooling their money to create their own special organization for saving and borrowing. As a Not-For-Profit financial institution, we have acknowledged the need for financial literacy in the community. In 1996 we established our Independent Advantage program for teens, to teach life skills and financial literacy not often taught or discussed in schools. Our program is still going strong and only growing in the Burbank and San Fernando Valley. In 2022 the Gaining Ground Scholarship program was designed to give a financial advantage to help aspiring students accomplish academic goals.

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### Eligibility

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To be considered for the Gaining Ground Scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a senior, or first year college student
- First time High School applicants must be a senior from high school and be scheduled to graduate by June 30, 2026
- Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5
- Must be going to college/university/technical school at least "part-time" (equivalent to 6 units or more)
- Must be planning to attend a
  - 4-year college or university, or
  - 2-year community college, or
  - An accredited vocational or technical school

### Eligibility for Independent Advantage Students

- Must be a senior, or first year college student
- First time High School applicants must be a senior from high school and be scheduled to graduate by June 30, 2026
- Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Must be going to college/university/technical school at least "part-time" (equivalent to 6 units or more)
- Must be planning to attend a
  - 4-year college or university, or
  - 2-year community college, or
  - An accredited vocational or technical school

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### How to Apply

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- Complete all sections of the application form and include all required documents
- Submit your completed application packet to Gain FCU via email, mail, or deliver **no later than April 3, 2026 at 4:00pm PST.**

**Gain Federal Credit Union**

1800 W. Magnolia Blvd. Burbank CA 91506

Phone: (818) 846-1710 Ext 501 Email: [IAinfo@Gainfcu.com](mailto:IAinfo@Gainfcu.com)





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## Regulations

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- If awarded, the Scholarship is payable in the following manner:
  - Checks can be made payable to your educational institution
  - Checks can be made payable directly to the award winner once we receive proof of acceptance or enrollment
  - Prior scholarship award applicants/recipients are eligible to apply for the scholarship again if the scholarship eligibility is met. Awards can be issued to the same person maximum of (2) times.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION  
PACKET BY 4:00PM PST ON APRIL 3, 2026**

If you have any questions about this application, please contact Laurie Krattiger or Jasmine Moran, Community Education Program Coordinators, at [IAinfo@gainfcu.com](mailto:IAinfo@gainfcu.com)

To learn how Gain Federal Credit Union collects and uses your personal information, please visit [GainFCU.com/Privacy-Policy](https://GainFCU.com/Privacy-Policy).



## **Gaining Ground Scholarship Fund**

### **General Information**

*Please fill out this form in its entirety. If something does not apply to you, please answer with "N/A"*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:    Female    Male    Rather not disclose

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Have you previously received the Gaining Ground Scholarship Award?    Yes    No

*If yes, please provide the year(s) you have received this award:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian:*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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### **Education Record**

*Provide information about your college, university, or technical school*

Name of College/Trade School: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Pursuing: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

List all schools you attended, starting with the most recent, dating back to High School

School Name	City & State	Years Attended	Graduation Date	Degree

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

*List the three activities within either your school or the community that have been most important to you over the past four years and state why each was important to you. Be sure to include your role and period of involvement (e.g. Team Captain, 2018-2019)*

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Your role: \_\_\_\_\_ Start-End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance/Responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Your role: \_\_\_\_\_ Start-End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance/Responsibility \_\_\_\_\_



# independent advantage™

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Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Your role: \_\_\_\_\_ Start-End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance/Responsibility: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Community Involvement**

*List and briefly describe your community participation, leadership positions, and/or employment*

### **Community (e.g. Volunteer Work):**

Name of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Start - End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Start - End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Leadership (e.g. In school or community):**

Name of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Start - End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Start - End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Employment:**

Start - End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

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Start - End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Hobbies/Special Interest/Skills**

**Certification**

As an applicant for the Gaining Ground Award, I hereby certify that:

1. I will use the scholarship to pursue higher education.
2. I have read the scholarship guidelines and understand the scholarship disbursement procedure.
3. I will enroll as a college student as of: Fall \_\_\_\_\_  
(Year of Enrollment)
4. I will use the scholarship funds only for the payment of tuition and required fees, similar living expenses and for instructional equipment, materials and books. I understand that the determination of eligibility of such expenses and fees for payment by the scholarship fund is at the discretion of Gain FCU Community Education Program Coordinators.
5. In regard to my scholarship application, I will be solely responsible for corresponding with Gain FCU, submitting required documents, and requesting payouts of the scholarship funds. If I'm unable to come to the office, I will correspond via email or mail.
6. I authorize the release to Gain FCU any information held by educational institutions and officials.
7. I understand that this material, pictures, and any other further correspondence regarding my application/award may be used by Gain FCU for the purposes of publicity with my permission.
8. All information submitted herewith is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Applicant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**