Frequently Asked Questions for Graduates

1. **Do I need to complete a Scholarship Request Form each time I request scholarship funds from An Achievable Dream?** Yes, you must complete a scholarship request form **each and every time** you request scholarship funds. The scholarship form can be retrieved at [https://achievabledream.org/our-program/alumni/](https://achievabledream.org/our-program/alumni/). The procedure for making requests is:
   - Click on the blue “Scholarship Request” button.
   - Fill out all of the fields completely.
   - Attach a bill or screenshot(s) verifying the amount of your request.
   - Attach your most recent final grades.

   **Please Note:**
   - Whenever possible funds will be sent directly to the school/organization
   - Funds will not be dispersed until FINAL GRADES from the previous semester are submitted
   - Students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA to be eligible for funding
   - Scholarship funds will not be dispersed until RECEIPTS from the previous disbursement are submitted
   - If you have difficulty submitting the form, please contact Elizabeth Aultice at (757) 283-7820 X 63535 or e-mail her at eaultice@achievabledream.org

2. **Does my scholarship continue in graduate school?** An Achievable Dream strives to provide as much financial assistance as possible to our alumni. There are numerous factors that we must consider when awarding funding for graduate school and we cannot always guarantee funding. Please visit [https://achievabledream.org/our-program/alumni/](https://achievabledream.org/our-program/alumni/) and complete the graduate school funding request. If you are approved you will be notified in writing of how much assistance we can grant during your graduate program. Only students who have completed this form and been approved will be given assistance for graduate school.

3. **Do I need to complete my FAFSA each year that I am attending college?** Yes, the FAFSA must be completed each year by the priority deadline for the college/university that you are currently attending (the priority deadline is normally February 15 or March 15). The FAFSA opens on October 1 every year.

4. **What do I do if I need assistance with my FAFSA?** You can contact the Director of Alumni Services (Elizabeth Aultice) or the financial aid office at your college/university. AAD will assist you with your FAFSA each year but you must remember your FSA ID (you can retrieve it at [www.fafsa.edu.gov](http://www.fafsa.edu.gov)).

5. **How can I receive funding for summer classes?** You can use financial aid to cover tuition for summer classes. You must add the college/university that you plan to attend for the summer session to your FASFA. Once financial aid has been applied, you can use your available AAD scholarship funds.

6. **Should I accept a student loan?** Deciding whether or not to accept a student loan should be a carefully thought out decision. You should meet with your financial aid advisor at the college/university to review your financial package for the entire year, prior to making a decision. Often the college/university considers a subsidized loan as a portion of your financial aid package so if you do not accept the loan you will not have enough funds to cover tuition, room, and board. Note: When at all possible, only accept subsidized loans (subsidized loans do not accrue interest while you are enrolled full-time in college, unsubsidized loans accrue interest immediately while you are in college). Do not accept loans to receive a refund check! Plan for your future and recognize that you will ultimately have to pay this money back!

7. **If I attend ODU, VA Tech or NSU, do I need to accept a student loan?** It depends on your overall package and whether the college/university includes subsidized loans as part of the financial aid package. Please check with your financial aid advisor prior to making that decision.

8. **If I attend ODU, VA Tech or NSU do I still need to meet the housing deposit, etc. deadlines?** Yes, it is up to you to meet all deadlines for the college/university. If you need to utilize your AAD scholarship funds to cover the deposit, you must complete the Scholarship Request Fund two weeks prior to the deadline.

9. **In addition to tuition and books, what can I use my AAD scholarship funds to purchase?** Your scholarship funds can be used to pay housing and tuition deposits, purchase ONE computer, and/or pay for matters that directly impact your college education. This will be at the discretion of the Director of Alumni Services and CEO of An Achievable Dream on a case by case basis. Receipts must be provided.