



Columbus Italian Club Educational Assistance Corporation Scholarship Opportunity

February 2026

Dear Guidance Counselor or Financial Officer:

The Columbus Italian Club (CIC) is a fraternal organization whose mission is to promote and preserve Italian culture and heritage in the Italian-American community. The Columbus Italian Club and Education Assistance Corporation is proud to once again sponsor the CIC Scholarship Award. For more than 30 years the Columbus Italian Club has provided over \$400,000 in scholarships to help students of Italian descent with their post-secondary educational expenses.

The CIC scholarship program makes awards annually, typically in an amount of between \$1,000 and \$3,000, to high school seniors of Italian descent who wish to further their education. The criteria to apply are as follows:

- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 out of 4.00
- Must be of Italian descent
- Must be a graduating senior from a high school in Central Ohio
- Must attend, within 9 months of the award, a college or university that offers an associates or baccalaureate degree or a technical or trade school.

The evaluation of an applicant focuses on four principal areas: academics, life activities, financial need, and how well they prepare an essay on a current topic relevant to Italians and Italian Americans.

The Columbus Italian Club respectfully requests that you use your judgment and recommend students graduating from your high school this year that you believe are deserving of consideration and meet the application criteria. The student portion of completed applications are to be returned to you. We ask that you sign the certification page, enclose it with all application materials and email it in PDF format to dspensiero@gmail.com. **Applications must be received no later than April 30, 2026.** Please feel free to make additional copies of the application. The application is available online at [Scholarship Program – CIC \(columbusitalianclub.com\)](http://Scholarship Program – CIC (columbusitalianclub.com)).

We thank you in advance for your assistance. If you should have any questions (please school officials only), you may contact Darren Spensiero at (949) 632-8748 or dspensiero@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The Columbus Italian Club and Columbus Italian Club Educational Assistance Corporation

**The Columbus Italian Club
Scholarship Award**

**SCHOOL CERTIFICATION
OF STUDENT APPLICATION**

To be completed by Authorized School Official

Applicant Name _____
(Please Print)

Documents To Enclose:

Student Financial Information Form
Student Application
Student Essay and answers to questions
Transcript of High School Grades, including SAT/ACT scores
Letters of recommendation
This Certification Form

I hereby certify that I have reviewed the enclosed application and that to the best of my knowledge, the information provided is true and accurate.

Signed Date

Please Print Name & School Title

Applications must be received by April 30, 2026. Please email all materials in PDF format to dspensiero@gmail.com.

Columbus Italian Club Educational Assistance Corporation
1739 West Third Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212

**The Columbus Italian Club
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FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM

Applicant Name _____

1. Please describe you and your family's financial need relative to you attending an institution of higher learning. _____

2. Father's occupation and employer _____

3. Mother's occupation and employer _____

4. Have you applied for FAFSA? Yes No

If yes, what is your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)? _____

OR "Total Income" from Form 1040, Line 9 _____

5. School you will (most likely) be attending _____

Tuition (\$) / year _____ Room & Board (\$) / year _____

6. List all financial assistance (i.e. scholarships, grants, loans) you expect to receive and the dollar amount for each.

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**STUDENT APPLICATION
(please print or type)**

1. Name _____
(last) (first) (middle)

2. Address _____
(street & no.) (city) (state) (zip)

3. Phone Number _____

4. Email address _____

5. Father's (Guardian) Name _____

6. Mother's (Guardian) Name _____

7. High School Attending _____

8. Address of High School _____

9. Expected Graduation Date _____

10. Degree Sought? Bachelor of Arts? Bachelor of Science? Masters? _____

11. Area of Study _____

12. Honors and Awards Earned _____

13. GPA _____ Out of 4 or 5? _____ (please provide official transcripts)

Class Rank _____ SAT Score _____ (please provide results copy)

ACT Score _____ (please provide results copy)

You may attach a separate list and/or resume' for the following questions.

14. Did you take AP classes? College Prep? _____

15. List your participation in activities in your school, church, community, and family.
Please indicate number of years involved in each activity:

16. List part-time and summer jobs held during high school years. For each job indicate start and end dates and average hours worked per week:

17. List other interests such as hobbies, sports, music, etc.:

18. Genealogy, Italian Descent: (Please complete to the best of your knowledge)

_____ Paternal, Please go to section 18 a)

_____ Maternal, Please go to section 18 b)

If both your Paternal and Maternal genealogies are of Italian descent, please complete both sections 18a & 18b.

18 a). Father's Name: _____

Paternal Grandfather's Name: _____

Paternal Grandmother's (Maiden) Name: _____

What towns/cities and provinces/regions are your father and/or his family from in Italy?

18 b). Mother's (Maiden) Name: _____

Maternal Grandfather's Name: _____

Maternal Grandmother's (Maiden) Name: _____

What towns/cities and provinces/regions are your mother and/or her family from in Italy?

If your Italian descent begins before your paternal or maternal grandparents, then please make any corrections or additions that are necessary.

Feel free to extend your genealogy (family tree) as far as you wish and/or make any comments regarding your Italian family history that you want to share.

19. What is your motivation to continue your education beyond high school? What do you hope to learn/study? Why? (Please answer on a separate sheet.)

20. When have you overcome an obstacle/challenge and what did you learn from your experience? (Please answer on a separate sheet.)

21. Select one of the three topics below and submit a personally prepared essay of no more than 2 typed, double spaced pages, using size 12 Times Roman font.

The use of Chat GPT or any other Artificial Intelligence platform to prepare the essay will, at the sole discretion of application judges, result in the disqualification of your application from consideration.

- 1) Social and economic forces caused many Italians to immigrate to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries. What do you believe should be done with current US immigration policy as viewed through the lens of a descendant of immigrants yourself?
- 2) Given Italy's history of fascism in the 20th century, what lessons from the Italian experience can we apply to today's world? Given current events, do you believe that Fascism is rearing its head once more? Explain why or why not.
- 3) Italians and Italian Americans have historically been leading contributors to the artistic and scientific cultures of the world. From music, architecture, painting, sculpture, writing, physics, chemistry, and medicine; we have been innovative and impactful. Given this rich history, please identify which Italian (or Italian American) artist or scientist has most impacted your life as an Italian American and explain.

We, the undersigned, certify that the information provided on and with this application is true and accurate and that the response to item 21 has not been prepared with the aid of ChatGBT or any other Artificial Intelligence platform.

Student's Signature

Parent's or Guardian's Signature

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Your completed application, including responses to items 19, 20 and 21, Financial Information Form, transcripts, and grades should be returned to your high school guidance counselor or financial aid officer. You may include up to 3 letters of recommendation.

You should follow up with your guidance counselor to ensure that all materials, along with the School Certification of Student Application form are emailed in PDF format to the Columbus Italian Club no later than April 30, 2026. Please allow enough lead-time for your school official to complete and submit.

All materials must be emailed in PDF format to dspensiero@gmail.com no later than April 30, 2026

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