Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award and Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Finalist Scholarship Requirements & Award Criteria

Applications must be submitted on-line on or before 11:59 PM, March 1, 2027
Scholarship awards will be announced by the end of June 2027

- **One (1) Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award will be awarded, valued at up to $25,000**
- **Four (4) Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Finalist Scholarships will be awarded, valued at $5,000 each**

The Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award scholarship will be disbursed to the recipient's university in $6,250 increments each prospective semester of the scholar's junior and senior year, subject to the scholar's continued compliance with the maintenance criteria set forth herein.

The Texas Farm Bureau S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Finalist scholarships will be disbursed to the recipients' university in full the semester following the award, subject to the scholar's continued compliance with the maintenance criteria set forth herein.

Eligibility requirements

Previous winners of either the TFB S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award or the TFB S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Finalist Scholarship are not eligible to apply for either scholarship thereafter

**** Please note** – To receive the total award of $25,000 payable in $6,250 increments for each semester of the scholar's junior and senior year, applicants must apply in the second semester of their sophomore year. **Applicants who apply with less than four (4) semesters remaining will only receive disbursements of $6,250 each semester for the number of semesters remaining, meaning the total award will be less than $25,000.**

Applicants must:

- ☐ Complete all questions
- ☐ Be a member in good standing of Texas Farm Bureau for at least three years at the time of application. (*Note - Texas Farm Bureau Membership is a family membership. <u>If listed as a dependent or spouse on the membership</u>, dependents or spouses of Texas Farm Bureau members in good standing are considered to be members (for dependents, only up to age 25). Texas Farm Bureau's membership requirements will apply and govern any determination of membership.*)
- ☐ Be enrolled, or about to enroll, in an agriculture program major, and provide an up-to-date copy of the course work and grades.
- ☐ Be enrolled in an accredited four-year college or university
- ☐ Have completed a minimum of 60 credit hours and/or obtained a "junior" classification upon receipt of the 1st payment in Fall 2027
- ☐ Be an undergraduate student at an accredited college or university

- ☐ Have a GPA of at least 2.5
- ☐ Intend to pursue a career in agriculture
- ☐ List all sources of tuition funding including scholarships (submitted or received), grants, loans, personal funds, family funds, and any other financial assistance
- ☐ List major agriculture leadership activities & honors
- ☐ List other leadership activities & honors
- ☐ Upload a copy of the applicant's accredited college or university transcript
- ☐ Applicant must upload their major's degree plan
- ☐ Must upload two letters of recommendation, one of each (in Reviewr):
    a. A county Farm Bureau president of the applicant's membership county, and
    b. Your college or school's dean OR department head/department chair of the applicant's accredited college or university

Award criteria

- TFB S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award and TFB S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Finalist Scholarships are judged at-large.
- All S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award and finalist scholarships are judged in a preliminary round by the TFB Scholarship Committee. This committee consists of volunteer TFB county leaders.
- The TFB Scholarship Committee uses a judging rubric to judge each applicant. A numerical score and rank are given to each applicant by the three (3) scholarship committee members judging their application. The sum of the ranks given to each applicant by three (3) scholarship committee members determines the applicant's final ranking in the preliminary judging process.
- The top five (5) ranking applicants in the preliminary round are named S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Finalists.
- All S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Finalists are judged by a committee for three (3) current Texas Farm Bureau State Board of Directors appointed by the Texas Farm Bureau President. The committee uses a judging rubric to judge each finalist. A numerical score and rank are given to each applicant by the three (3) committee members.
- The committee interviews each finalist via a live 30-minute Zoom interview. The sum of the ranks given to each applicant by three (3) scholarship committee members and their interview determines the applicant's final ranking in the process.
- The top-ranking S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award finalist receives the S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award (valued at $25,000). The remaining four (4) finalists will receive one (1) of four (4) S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award Finalist scholarships (valued at $5,000).
- The judges and appointed committee of current Texas Farm Bureau State Board of Directors may give preference to applicants who, among other criteria, demonstrate involvement in Texas Farm Bureau and/or county Farm Bureau activities, demonstrate significant involvement in extracurricular activities, demonstrate a high GPA, and/or demonstrate significant understanding of S.M. True, Jr.'s life and legacy.

Maintenance criteria

- To receive any disbursements, scholars must at all times continue to meet the following criteria:
    - Texas Farm Bureau membership in good standing
    - A status of good standing as defined by their university
- Prior to receiving the first disbursement, the scholar must provide:

    - Proof of enrollment for the upcoming semester
    - Executed Scholarship Certificate
- Prior to receiving subsequent disbursements, the scholar must:
    - Provide proof of enrollment for the upcoming semester
    - Provide proof of grades for the previous semester

Disclosure: In the review of applications for the above scholarships, certain software or other technologies may be utilized, which may include but not be limited to artificial intelligence. All final decisions on scholarship awards will be made by judges utilizing the criteria and the process, in each case, set forth herein.