



Caleb Scholars Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This FAQ is designed to help you better understand the Caleb Scholars Program, including eligibility, the application process, and what to expect as a scholar or applicant. We encourage you to review our **Program Policies** as well. If you have additional questions after reviewing these materials, please contact us at calebscholars@kawerak.org.

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About The Program

What does Inuit-led conservation advocacy mean?

Our program focuses on conservation advocacy through an Inuit lens. We recognize that caring for the land is essential to sustaining our subsistence way of life, and that Inuit are part of the Arctic ecosystem. Conservation is often practiced through responsible use, and we understand that healthy lands, oceans, animals, and resources support healthy Inuit communities.

We emphasize grounding decisions in our Iñupiat Ilitqusiatic (Traditional Values), especially when they impact our communities and future generations. We also support the co-production of knowledge by bridging Western science and academia with Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural practices.

What makes this program different from other scholarships?

The Caleb Scholars Program is Inuit-led and focused on supporting Inuit scholars. In addition to providing scholarships, the program offers a more involved experience, including mentorship, monthly Virtual Qargis, and extracurricular activities, which is why we describe it as a fellowship. Scholars also have access to additional financial support, such as Supplemental Funding and designing their own paid internships.

How competitive is the program?

Our program is highly competitive, as we typically support a small cohort of 5–10 students each academic year, depending on available resources. We prioritize supporting scholars through graduation, which means not all spots are open to new applicants each year. We still encourage all eligible students to apply.

Eligibility

Do I have to live in Alaska to apply?

No. Tribal members and descendants from the Norton Sound, Northwest Arctic, and Arctic Slope regions of Alaska may apply, regardless of where they currently live. We support students attending accredited colleges and universities and are not a residency-based program.

I see your program is housed at Kawerak, do you only fund students from that region?

No. We support students who are tribal members or descendants from the Arctic Slope, Northwest Arctic, and Norton Sound regions of Alaska. If you have questions about your eligibility, please email us at calebscholars@kawerak.org.

Do you have a list of preferred degree programs that you support?

No. Students from any degree program may apply. What's most important is your ability to explain how your education will prepare you to contribute to our program's mission of Inuit-led conservation advocacy, including supporting healthy arctic communities, lands, and resources.

Do you provide scholarships for vocational training?

No. We currently only provide financial support for students who are enrolled in an accredited college or university.

Is there a minimum or maximum age to apply?

No.

Can I apply if I am a first-year student?

Undergraduate students must have completed at least 36 credit hours to be eligible to apply. First-year graduate students may apply.

Application Process

Can I submit my application if I am missing one document?

Yes. You may submit your application and send supporting documents separately as they become available. However, we recommend submitting all materials together in one email when possible (course registration, unofficial transcripts, letter of recommendation, and essay responses if they were not included in the online application at the time of submission.)

All required documents must be submitted by the July 15 deadline. Materials received after the deadline may still be included in your application, but will be marked as late and may impact your eligibility. Because the program is competitive, we strongly encourage applicants to prepare materials early and submit everything on time.

Can I apply for a scholarship for spring semester?

No. Applications are only open once per year, with a deadline of July 15. Students selected as Caleb Scholars receive funding for both the fall and spring semesters, as long as they remain eligible and complete required end-of-semester check-ins and documentation.

Do you have summer semester scholarships?

No. We do not offer scholarships for summer coursework. However, current Caleb Scholars and CSP alumni may apply for Supplemental Funding to help cover tuition and fees for summer classes.

Program Experience

What is a Virtual Qargi?

A Virtual Qargi is a monthly Zoom gathering hosted by CSP staff during the academic year (fall–spring). It’s a space for our cohort to connect with other scholars, hear from guest speakers, share resources, and stay up to date on program news in a supportive, community-centered setting. **Attendance is required for Caleb Scholars; if you are unable to attend, please contact CSP staff in advance to request to be excused.**

What happens at a Caleb Scholars Program Annual Gathering?

Our Annual Gathering is held once a year and typically rotates between Kotzebue, Nome, and Utqiagvik, though it may be held virtually depending on funding. It brings together current scholars, alumni, staff, and steering committee members to connect, share updates, discuss current events, participate in subsistence and cultural activities, and spend time on the land (nuna).

What is Supplemental Funding?

Supplemental Funding is additional financial support available to Caleb Scholars, program alumni, and steering committee members (in that order of priority). It is intended to support extracurricular, professional, cultural, and leadership development activities aligned with the program’s mission. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and scholars may submit multiple requests each academic year, depending on funding availability.

Eligible activities may include:

- Conferences, workshops, presentations, and retreats
- Cultural learning, subsistence activities, Indigenous arts, and gatherings

- Fieldwork, research, and conservation advocacy
- Community or self-directed advocacy projects
- Event coordination or facilitation
- Travel between home and school communities
- Internship support, including unpaid internships or wage supplementation

Think of this as flexible funding you can use to support your growth beyond tuition.

What kind of mentorship is provided?

Each Caleb Scholar selects a mentor based on their interests and goals. Scholars meet with their mentor at least twice per semester, either in person or virtually.

Mentors can help with:

- Academic, cultural, and career guidance
- Planning internships or projects
- Connecting to resources and opportunities
- Checking in on progress and goals

CSP staff provide optional resources to help guide mentor meetings. While scholars may choose a new mentor each semester, we encourage building longer-term relationships to support deeper connection and growth.

Program Policies and What-If Scenarios

I am a Caleb Scholar who has experienced hardship this semester and have failed my classes, dropping my current and cumulative GPA. Am I ineligible to apply as a continuing scholar?

Not necessarily. We encourage scholars experiencing hardships or unexpected challenges to reach out to CSP staff as soon as possible. We may be able to offer support or work with you to create a plan moving forward, including before probation is considered. For more *information, please review our program policies or contact us directly.*

What happens if I miss a check-in or deadline?

If you anticipate challenges meeting a requirement or deadline, please reach out to CSP staff as soon as possible, we may be able to provide support or work with you

on a plan. If required materials are not submitted by communicated deadlines and we have not heard from you, you may be placed on probation from the program.

What does probation from the program look like?

Probation will be outlined in writing. It may be used when a scholar is temporarily unable to meet program requirements but remains engaged and responsive. This may include situations such as falling below GPA requirements, incomplete reporting, inconsistent participation, missed deadlines, or difficulty meeting mentorship expectations.

Probation establishes clear expectations for the semester and may include a **reduced scholarship amount**. Aside from this, scholars on probation remain active participants in the program, including attending Virtual Qargis and maintaining access to resources such as Supplemental Funding.

CSP staff will work with you to create a plan to address concerns, return to good standing, and support your continued success in the program. In many cases, probation can be avoided by communicating with CSP staff early about any challenges.

What happens if I withdraw from a class after receiving funding?

Scholarship funding is merit-based and does not need to be repaid if you withdraw from a class.

However, changes to your enrollment may affect future funding. Students who reduce their enrollment to part-time will receive the part-time scholarship amount for the following semester. Students who do not complete the semester or do not continue into the spring semester will not receive funding for the next term.