

Rainbow Scholarship FAQ

The NAIGC is excited to offer the \$2,000 Rainbow Scholarship, designed to support LGBTQ+ undergraduates who exemplify a passion for gymnastics and a commitment to creating inclusive spaces within the sport and beyond. Aligned with the NAIGC's core values of providing maximum opportunities for participation and fostering a culture of positivity, the scholarship recipient will be selected based on their involvement in gymnastics, commitment to LGBTQ+ representation, and their leadership both inside and outside the gym. Athletes who have demonstrated resilience in overcoming barriers to participation are encouraged to apply. For additional information, see <https://naigc.org/scholarships> or email scholarships@naigc.org.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Rainbow Scholarship is open to LGBTQ+ undergraduate students who are actively participating in the NAIGC or planning to join an NAIGC-affiliated club during the 2025-2026 academic year. Applicants must:

- Be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student throughout the scholarship period
- Identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, including but not limited to individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer
- Actively participate in the NAIGC as a member of an NAIGC member club or an independent student athlete if your school does not have an NAIGC-affiliated club

When is the application deadline?

Applications are usually due the third week in June for the upcoming academic year. For additional information, see <https://naigc.org/scholarships>.

When will I hear back if I was selected or not?

Applicants are usually notified by the first week in August for the upcoming academic year. For additional information, see <https://naigc.org/scholarships>

How did the NAIGC determine who would be eligible?

The NAIGC designed the eligibility criteria to align with its mission of fostering inclusivity and expanding participation in gymnastics. By focusing on LGBTQ+ gymnasts, the scholarship highlights a historically underrepresented group within the sport. Input from community members, NAIGC leadership, and volunteers helped ensure the criteria reflect the organization's core value of providing maximum opportunity for participation in adult gymnastics.

How will candidates be evaluated?

Candidates will be evaluated using a rubric that considers the following:

- *Alignment with NAIGC's Mission and Core Values:* Applicants are asked to describe how their participation in NAIGC aligns with the organization's mission and values.
- *Commitment to LGBTQ+ Representation:* The application assesses how being part of the LGBTQ+ community has influenced your gymnastics experience and how you contribute to creating inclusive spaces.
- *Vision for the Future of Gymnastics:* Applicants are evaluated on their creativity and priorities for advancing the sport.

Is this a need-based scholarship?

No, the Rainbow Scholarship is not a need-based scholarship. It is merit-based, focusing on an applicant's involvement in gymnastics, their commitment to LGBTQ+ representation, and their leadership qualities. While financial need is not a primary criterion, applicants are welcome to share information about barriers to participation if they feel it is relevant.

Why did the NAIGC develop this scholarship?

The NAIGC created the Rainbow Scholarship to support and uplift LGBTQ+ gymnasts who exemplify the organization's mission of expanding participation and fostering a positive, inclusive gymnastics culture. This scholarship recognizes the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ athletes. By offering financial support, the NAIGC aims to inspire leadership, encourage participation, and celebrate the contributions of LGBTQ+ gymnasts to the sport and their communities.