

Show Your Aggie Gratitude:

Writing Your Scholarship Thank You Letter

What is this for?

Every year, donors give to the university to support students like you. In return, they like to hear about you, your journey, your experiences, through a thank you note. That's what you'll be sharing with them by writing your letter.

Who Will This Benefit?



You Will

Many students who have written thank you letters to donors have been able to create mentor and mentee relationships... so they feel a strong connection to your success. You also get to learn more about where your scholarship comes from, and the real people behind it.



NMSU + Future Aggies

Donors are motivated to help the next generation of Aggies. When they hear from you, they know their money is being put to good use, and that inspires them to give more, and create new scholarships to help even more students like you. So they're more likely to support the colleges, programs, and experiences of future Aggies at NMSU, all because of you.

What Do I Write?

Keep in mind: The purpose of these questionnaires and thank you notes are to (1) thank your donor and (2) share your story.

Give yourself a few minutes to think of good answers. Be thoughtful. Many of our donors are alumni, fellow Aggies like you, so they love to hear about what everyday life is like on campus these days, your background, your academic goals, your extracurricular activities (including community service and leadership roles), your career aspirations, etc.

Remember that donors don't select their scholarship recipients, so avoid thanking your donors for *choosing* you; thank them for their *support* instead and let them know you appreciate the opportunity afforded through their scholarship.

Check your spelling and grammar. And as always, keep in mind that you are representing yourself as well as the university.

Be as personal as you feel comfortable being. You certainly don't have to divulge any private information you don't want to, but donors want to get to know you, so think of some meaningful things about yourself that you'd like them to know.

Be sure to answer the question about how this scholarship is helping you at NMSU. Express your gratitude for this financial support, be sincere, be your awesome self. What does this scholarship mean to you? What has it allowed you to do?



Donor quote of receiving scholarship thank you letter from student

Donor who received a letter from the recipient of a scholarship she created in memory of her deceased husband for example



What *and* What?

Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Answers

Q: What IS a donor-funded scholarship anyway?

A: Of all the different kinds of financial aid available to NMSU students (federal loans, federal and university grants, work study), donor-funded scholarships are those scholarships that were created with money given by individuals or foundations.

Q: How did I qualify for this scholarship?

A: Most donor-funded scholarships have guidelines that they should go to students studying certain fields, or are from certain geographical areas. Some are financial need-based, and others are merit-based, while some are a combination of both (for example, a scholarship that is meant for students who show financial need AND maintain a 3.0 GPA). And many of them are simply for students enrolled full-time at NMSU, with very few restrictions at all.

Q: So donors get to decide who gets their scholarship?

A: No. Donors create scholarships at NMSU to benefit students, but the scholarship is actually awarded by the Financial Aid Office, your college or through Athletics. So when you write a thank you letter to your donor, you won't be thanking them for *choosing* you, but you'll be thanking them for *supporting* a scholarship that benefits you.

Q: Is my scholarship for a semester, a full year, or my entire college career?

A: Short answer is, it depends. We know it can be confusing to weed through all your financial paperwork. Your best resource for those kinds of questions is with the folks in your college — typically a scholarship coordinator — who notified you when you first got your scholarship, or NMSU's Financial Aid Office.

Q: What is Stewardship and Donor Relations at the NMSU Foundation, and what does it do?

A: Stewardship and Donor Relations is a team within the NMSU Foundation, also know as University Advancement, which is the fundraising arm of the university. We focus on showing donors the impact of their generosity, and educating students about how donors support NMSU in a million different ways... through scholarships like yours, but also by supporting programs, facilities, faculty... pretty much everything at NMSU has some kind of connection to donor support. We're basically the department that says "thank you" to NMSU donors, and "congratulations" to students like you! It's a pretty cool gig. You can reach us at any time by calling 575-646-1613. We are happy to talk with you about what donors make possible at NMSU, how you can share your story with a donor, or even help you write your thank you letter if you feel a bit lost!

