



Recipient Frequently Asked Questions

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BOWL.com/SMART

SMART RECIPIENT FAQ

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

1. I am new to SMART. How do I log into my account?

Your USBC Community Login for BOWL.com is also your login for SMART. If you do not have a Community Login created yet, you will need to do so using your USBC ID number and birthdate.

Go to BOWL.com. In the upper right-hand corner click "Login", then go to "Sign up for a USBC Community Account" to create a username and password. Once created and verified by email, go to [BOWL.com/smart](https://bowl.com/smart) to log into the SMART account.

2. What if I forgot my username?

Go to BOWL.com. In the upper right-hand corner click "Login". Click the link that says, "Forgot username?" at the bottom of the login box. If you still need help, please email us at smart@bowl.com. We will need your:

- name
- birthdate
- USBC ID number

3. What if I forgot my password?

Go to BOWL.com. In the upper right-hand corner click "Login". Click the link that says, "Forgot password?" at the bottom of the login box. An email to reset your password will be sent.

4. I am a bowler, and I have my own BOWL.com login. Can I connect my child's SMART account to my login?

No. Each user requires a unique username/password for *their* USBC ID number. This ensures that each SMART account is secure.

5. My child does not have an email address, and I am already using *my* email address for myself and do not have another one. What do I do?

You can create an email for your child using Yahoo, Gmail, etc. then provide them with access to it when you think they are ready.

6. I have multiple children. Can I create one login that will reflect all of their SMART accounts?

No. Each user requires a unique username/password for *their* USBC ID number. This ensures that each SMART account is secure.

7. My child has multiple accounts. How can I get all the scholarships in one account?

Email smart@bowl.com, and we will merge the accounts. We will need:

- Name
- Address (including city/state)
- All USBC member numbers
- Birthdate

8. How can I join SMART?

Youth automatically become a participant in the program when an organization sends SMART a funded scholarship in their name. There is no other way to create an account.

9. Will I be notified of any scholarships SMART receives?

Yes. We will send an email to the email address listed on your profile when we receive a funded scholarship in your name within 5 business days. Please be sure to keep your email address current on your profile page.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

10. Why is my balance in points?

This aligns SMART with standards of high school athletic associations across the country. Until you graduate high school, your balance will display in points. After graduation, they will reflect the actual dollar amounts. To see the actual dollar amount of a specific scholarship award, you can click on a scholarship's event title (not available for MI residents).

11. What are the points to dollars conversion?

Each point in SMART is worth \$5 and is rounded down to the nearest whole point.

Examples:

50 SMART Points = \$250

\$324 Scholarship Dollars = 64 SMART Points

\$325 Scholarship Dollars = 65 SMART Points

\$326 Scholarship Dollars = 65 SMART Points

12. What if I do not see a scholarship I earned in my account?

You may be looking too early, and the scholarship may not have been added to your account yet. Providers have 30 days from the last date of the competition, or the date of the award if meritorious, to submit funds to SMART. You can always contact the person who awarded the scholarship to see when it will be submitted to SMART.

Or, you may have multiple USBC ID numbers. If so, email SMART. We will need your:

- name
- address (including city/state)
- all USBC ID numbers

If you have already contacted the official who awarded the scholarship and it is still not in your account, please email smart@bowl.com for assistance. We will need the:

- name of tournament, league, or organization
- name of person responsible for the event
- copy of award certificate
- date of event
- center name

13. I bowled in an uncertified event. Do they have to submit my funds to SMART?

NO. SMART only has jurisdiction over USBC certified competition. If the event was not certified, we cannot mandate that they send the funds to SMART. However, we will accept them and protect them on your behalf if they do.

Please be sure to check with the competition rules and/or official prior to competing as to whether or not the event is USBC certified so you know if the funds will be coming to SMART.

14. Do I have to pay taxes on my scholarship funds?

Please consult a tax professional, as SMART cannot answer tax questions.

15. What is considered an “active recipient” in order to receive a Bonus Scholarship Award from SMART?

Recipients who use funds in the proceeding calendar year may receive an additional scholarship on Feb. 15 of the following year. Transferring funds to a family member does not qualify as “use” for the allocation. Disbursed funds that are returned to SMART do not qualify as “use” for the allocation.

SMART Pell Grant Match Program

16. What is the SMART Pell Grant Match Program?

Qualifying students can submit an application to include proof of their Pell Grant award and class schedule, and SMART will match the Federal Pell Grant dollar for dollar via a new SMART deposited scholarship.

17. How do I qualify?

Students must have at least four prior years of USBC bowling participation (at least one being youth) and a current SMART account balance of less than \$1,000. Students must also still be within eight years of their own high school graduation.

18. What is the [Federal Pell Grant](#)?

The Federal Pell Grant is a well-known program that helps students and families with the greatest financial need pay for college. Students must demonstrate financial need to the federal government by submitting a FAFSA form. The Pell Grant amount is awarded based on need.

19. What is the deadline for the SMART Pell Grant Match?

Students can submit proof of their Pell Grant anytime during the current school year to receive a matching scholarship from SMART. This will continue until all grant funds allocated for that year have been exhausted.

20. How often can I apply for the SMART Pell Grant Match?

Students can reapply every year, just as they do for the Federal Pell Grant. The Federal Pell Grant can be awarded to one individual a maximum of 12 terms/six years. However, it is limited to those who have not earned a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree.

21. Do I have to use the SMART awarded Pell Grant Match toward tuition?

No. Funds received via the SMART Pell Grant Match program can be used the same as any other SMART scholarship. This includes tuition, room and board, campus bookstore, off-campus housing, student loans, or as reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses such as laptops, tuition, books or other required supplies.

22. Can I transfer these funds to a family member if I don't use them?

No. SMART awarded scholarships to include Pell grant Matches are not transferable and will expire back into the SMART Grant Fund account after two years if unused.

*YOU CAN APPLY FOR THE SMART PELL GRANT MATCH [HERE](#)

APPLYING FOR FUNDS

23. When can I use my scholarship funds?

After high school graduation.

24. Where can my scholarships be used?

Post-high school education:

- Business Schools
- Technical Schools
- Trade Schools
- Vocational Schools
- Universities
- Colleges

This includes online schools, provided they accept outside scholarships.

** Scholarship usage for those who would qualify for a USBC Special Olympics membership will be case handled. Please contact smart@bowl.com.*

25. What can I pay for with my funds?

a. **Tuition**

Funds will go directly to the school for secondary education courses.

b. **Necessary Purchases**

Funds will go directly to the school for purchases through the campus bookstore. Certain off campus purchases may be reimbursed, with appropriate paperwork (see **NOTE** below.)

- 1) Textbooks
- 2) Required class supplies
- 3) Equipment necessary for the completion of a course or program, which may be a laptop, iPad, etc., and is limited to one, every two years.

c. **Housing/M Meal Plans**

- 1) On-campus meal plans (Funds sent to the school)
- 2) On-campus housing (Funds sent to the school)
- 3) Off-campus housing (Funds are sent to the housing company/manager. (Completed request form required, see **NOTE** below.)

d. **Student Loan**

Funds will be paid directly to the loan company. (Completed request form required, see **NOTE** below.)

NOTE: For Reimbursement of paid Tuition or required student related expenses, or to have a payment sent on your behalf for Off-Campus Housing or Student Loans, go to the Recipient page of BOWL.com/SMART and fill out the [Alternate Usage Request Form](#). You will be notified if/when we approve the request.

26. What can I not use my scholarship funds for?

Including but not limited to:

- Private/grade/high school tuition, supplies, fees, etc.
- College courses/expenses while still in high school
- Renting from parent, relative, friend, etc.
- Furniture
- Cable, internet, utilities, etc.
- Insurance
- Commute expenses such as car, gas, bus fare, tolls, tickets, parking, garage, etc.
- Travel expenses such as airfare, hotel, rideshare, etc.
- Deposits
- Fees for exams, enrollment, applications, tests, certifications, bowling, etc.
- Medical expenses/bills
- Cell phone/bills
- Coaching
- Bowling lessons
- Bowling equipment/accessories

27. Can I use my scholarship funds to purchase a computer, iPad, etc.?

Yes, through the campus bookstore. If purchased through another source, you could be reimbursed with proper documentation. (Completed [Alternate Usage Request Form](#) required.)

A desktop computer, laptop or tablet purchase is limited to one every two years from the date of reimbursement.

NOTE: Additional accessory items not required for class may not be covered under the reimbursement policy. Such items would include, but are not limited to, keyboard, mouse, monitors, speakers, headphones/headset, docking station, desk lift, warranty/protection plan, stylus, protective case, or laptop bag.

28. I am not going to college; can I request my balance just be sent to me?

No. SMART scholarships must be used toward post high school education. When funds are not used, they expire back to the awarding provider (see FAQ 45-47). See FAQ 24 for additional ways to utilize funds outside of "college".

29. How soon can I request my funds?

Check with the Financial Aid Office at your school to find out when they will begin accepting scholarship payments on your behalf.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!

30. Do I have to use all my funds at once?

No. SMART does not have policies on the number of requests, or the amount requested.

31. What if I am not going for a degree, can I still use the funds?

Yes. You can be a part-time student or just take one class. The class may be credit or non-credit in nature, or it could be continuing education for your current job/career.

32. What information do I need to request my scholarship funds?

A request for scholarships must be done through your online account. Click [here](#) to log in to your account. You will need:

- School name and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) code
- Student ID (not USBC ID number)
- The amount you want us to send

33. Where can I find my school's FAFSA code?

Contact your school's financial aid office or look on the financial aid page of their website. Alternatively, you can go to fsapartners.ed.gov and search for the school code.

34. What if my school is not on the FAFSA list?

If your school does not have a FAFSA code, email smart@bowl.com with your school's information. Please include:

- A written request with the school's name and address
- The school's website
- Title of course/class/program you want to take

We will evaluate the school to determine if it qualifies based on SMART policies.

35. How do I request my funds?

Log into your SMART account [here](#).

Click "SMART Program" from the blue bar at the top of the page, then click "Scholarships".

To request funds, click the "Request Funds" button below your list of scholarships and follow the process below. ALL fields are required.

- a. Enter the school's FAFSA code. The school's information should populate right below the field. **Click on the school.** Do not copy and paste the code.
- b. Enter the *Student ID*, not the USBC ID number
- c. Enter the total amount you are requesting
- d. Click "Submit"

A message will appear at the top of the screen acknowledging that your request has been received along with your remaining balance.

36. How long does it take to process my request for scholarship funds?

Once you complete your online request, a check will be mailed directly to the school within three business days. Checks are mailed via first class mail through the U.S. Post Office. Please allow sufficient time for mail delivery. **U.S. POST OFFICE CAN TAKE 3-4 WEEKS, OR MORE.**

If the school has requested to receive payments from SMART via ACH, it will be transferred within 1 week.

An email will be sent to the email address we have on file for your account once payments are sent and/or checks cleared.

37. How can I check the status of my “direct to school” request through the portal?

The “Requested Funds Details” tab on the top of your account screen will show all of your requests along with their current status.

- Note that check cleared status is not available for check is issued prior to 2022, which means checks issued in 2022 or before, will never say “check cleared”, only “check issued”.
- ACH means your funds were direct deposited to your school. Please contact your school regarding funds deposited via ACH. SMART does not have information or control over these funds once they are transferred.

We also send you an email notifying you the funds were sent to the school on your behalf. The email goes to the contact email address listed in your account. Make sure your contact information is up to date by clicking “SMART Program” at the top, and then “Personal Profile.”

38. My account shows a “Gatekeeper Requirement: Yes”. What does this mean?

The State of Michigan has a Gatekeeper, which is Michigan’s approval process for scholarships.

Your awards can only be approved for disbursement after meeting the state of Michigan’s mandated academic requirement.

The Gatekeeper will need:

- A copy of your high school transcript showing a GPA of at least 2.0
- A completed Michigan Bowling Scholarship Fund Application/Worksheet [application](#).

Mail the documents to the address listed on the form or email it to either:

- Mark Martin at mark.martin@mdusbc.com
- Karen Hagan at karen.hagan@michiganstateusbc.com

Once the documentation is received and approved, you will be notified by the Gatekeeper. If approved, you can request funds from your SMART account.

NOTE: The SMART system cannot determine when and where a scholarship was derived from and all accounts for bowlers with a Michigan address are subject to the Gatekeeper.

USE OF SMART FUNDS

39. Can I give my scholarships to someone else?

Yes. After reaching the age of 21 and before funds expire, Recipients may transfer scholarship funds to a qualifying family member. A complete list of family members who are eligible to receive a transfer is included in the [SMART Policy Manual](#).

The family member you are transferring funds to must have at least four years of USBC membership history, and they must be within eight years from their high school graduation date.

Funds that are not transferable:

- Funds received via a transfer.
- Funds received from SMART to include:
 - Active Recipient Bonus Scholarships
 - SMART Pell Grant Matches

40. I already paid for my books. Can I be reimbursed?

Yes. You may be reimbursed for books purchased out of pocket. A completed [Alternate Usage Request Form](#) and all supporting documentation is required.

41. I have a student loan. Can I use my scholarships to pay for that?

Yes. A completed [Alternate Usage Request Form](#) and all supporting documentation is required. The payment will be sent directly to your student loan servicer. SMART cannot reimburse student loan payments.

42. I already paid my housing/rent. Can I be reimbursed?

No. SMART can only send payment to landlord/housing company on your behalf. Housing/rent payments are not reimbursable.

43. What if I join the military when I graduate high school?

A 6-year extension will be added to the default eight years from high school graduation date.

Your request must be submitted, in writing, prior to the default expiration (eight years from high school graduation). Send an email to smart@bowl.com to include:

- Your name
- USBC member number
- The number of years of your first enlistment & branch

44. With the military paying for my education, can I use SMART Scholarships?

Yes. Scholarship funds can be used for anything stated in FAQs 24 and 25 even while active duty as long as you are enrolled in an educational class/course/program.

45. How long will my funds be available to me?

- Eight years from your high school graduation date for scholarships earned prior to high school graduation.
- Eight years from the date earned if earned after high school graduation.

NOTE: MILITARY - A 6-year extension will be added to the eight years from high school graduation date. Notification MUST be made with SMART prior to the default expiration of scholarships.

46. Can I ask for an extension of my expiration date?

No. SMART policy does not allow extensions.

47. What happens with my funds if I do not use them?

When scholarships expire, the amount is credited back to the original Provider (awarding organization) SMART account for future scholarships to youth bowlers.

48. I am in high school and attending college (dual-credit or college credit). Can I use my funds for my college expenses (tuition, fees, and textbooks)?

No. Funds can only be used for education obtained after high school graduation.

49. Can scholarship funds be used if a student does not participate in collegiate bowling?

Yes. There is no requirement that a student must participate in collegiate bowling.

50. I am participating in collegiate sports, bowling or other. Can I use SMART scholarship funds?

You will need to contact the school in which you are attending and talk with the Compliance Officer or Athletic Director. SMART staff cannot answer eligibility questions on behalf of other organizations' policies.

MISCELLANEOUS

51. Can I participate in a competition that offers cash prizes while being a USBC Youth Member?

Yes, but it must be **singles** competition only – **NOT** doubles, trios, or team events. In order to compete in a singles league or tournament with cash prizes, you will need to sign the [USBC Consent Form](#).

By signing the form, you are only accepting prizes in the form of scholarships, and waiving merchandise valued over \$500. You will also be acknowledging that your eligibility for High School and Collegiate athletics may be jeopardized.

Please be sure to speak with the competition official before competing in the event to ensure they will be okay with sending your prize winnings to SMART. SMART cannot accept prize winnings from the bowler themselves or their parents/relatives.

52. Where can I find more information on SMART?

Visit BOWL.com/smart for additional information.

53. How can I reach SMART?

Phone: 800-514-2695
Email: smart@bowl.com
Address: SMART
621 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011