



## Recipient Frequently Asked Questions

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[BOWL.com/SMART](http://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 will work 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://www.bowl.com/smart) to log into the SMART account.

### 2. What if I forgot my username?

Email us at [smart@bowl.com](mailto:smart@bowl.com), and we can help. We will need:

- Name
- Address
- USBC Member Number

### 3. What if I forgot my password?

If your username is:

- An email address – You can retrieve your password through BOWL.com by clicking on "Forgot Password" in the upper right-hand corner.
- Not an email address – Email us at [smart@bowl.com](mailto:smart@bowl.com), and we can help. We will need:
  - Name
  - Address
  - USBC Member Number

### 4. I have two children. Can I create a login that will reflect both SMART accounts, or can I connect them to my personal 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 has multiple accounts. How can I get all the scholarships in one account?

Email [smart@bowl.com](mailto:smart@bowl.com), and we will merge the accounts. We will need:

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

### 6. 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.

### 7. 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

### 8. 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.

### 9. How do points equal money?

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

#### Example:

50 SMART Points = \$250

\$1,324 Scholarship Dollars = 264 SMART Points

\$1,325 Scholarship Dollars = 265 SMART Points

(To see the actual dollar amount, click on a scholarship. The points will change to exact dollar amounts after high school graduation.)

### 10. 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 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.
- You may have multiple USBC ID numbers. If you find another ID, email SMART. We will need:
  - Name
  - Address (including city/state)
  - All USBC ID numbers

If you've contacted the person who awarded the scholarship and it is still not in your account, please email [smart@bowl.com](mailto:smart@bowl.com) for assistance. We will need:

- Name of tournament, league or organization
- Name of person responsible for the event
- Copy of award certificate. If no certificate, then proof of the amount won.
- Date of event
- Center name

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

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

### 12. What is considered an "active recipient" in order to receive a portion of the 50% recipient allocation (bonus scholarship) deposited by 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

### 13. What is the SMART Pell Grant Match Program?

SMART will match Federal Pell Grant awards for students with a history of at least two years of USBC bowling participation (at least one being youth). Students simply submit an application, 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.

### 14. 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.

### 15. Is there a deadline to receive the SMART Pell Grant Match?

No. Students can submit proof of their Pell Grant anytime during the school year to receive a match from SMART. This will continue until all grant funds allocated for that year have been exhausted.

### 16. 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 max of 12 terms/six years. However, it is limited to those who have not earned a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree.

### 17. 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 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. See the Recipient FAQ for more information on scholarship usage.

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

No. Grant funds are not transferable and will expire back into the SMART Grant Fund after two years if unused.

### 19. How do I qualify for a SMART Pell Grant Match?

A student applying for a SMART Pell Grant Match must be approved for a Federal Pell Grant and have two years of USBC Membership history, one of which being youth (they do not have to be consecutive.) The student must also still be within eight years of their high school graduation.

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

## APPLYING FOR FUNDS

### 20. When can I use my scholarship funds?

After high school graduation.

### 21. Where can my funds be used?

- 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.*

### 22. What can I pay for with my funds?

#### a. Tuition

After high school graduation 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 computer, iPad, etc., and is limited to one, every two years.

#### c. Housing/Meal Plans

- 1) On-campus meal plans (Funds sent to the school)
- 2) On-campus housing plans (Funds sent to the school)
- 3) Off-campus housing (Funds are sent to the housing company/managing owner. Completed waiver required, see NOTE below.)

#### d. Student Loan

Funds will be paid directly to the loan company. (Completed waiver 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](http://BOWL.com/SMART) and fill out the [Waiver](#). Send the completed Waiver and required supporting documentation directly to SMART. You will be notified if/when we approve the request.

**23. What can I not use my scholarship funds for?**

*Including but not limited to:*

- Private grade or high school
- Grade/high school classes, supplies, etc.
- College classes taken while in high school.
- Renting from parent, relative, friend, etc.
- Furniture
- Cable, internet, utilities, etc.
- Car, transportation, parking, etc.
- Deposits
- Enrollment application
- Fees for exams, tests, certifications, enrollment, bowling, etc.
- Coaching
- Bowling lessons
- Bowling equipment/accessories

**24. 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 [waiver](#) required.)

A computer, iPad, etc., purchase is limited to one every two years.

**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.

**25. I am not going to college, and I do not have much in scholarship funds. 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 42-44). See FAQ 22 for additional ways to utilize funds outside of “college”.

**26. 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!**

**27. 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.

**28. 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 something that will help you in your job/career.

**29. 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)
- Amount

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

Contact your school's financial aid office. Alternatively you can go to [fsapartners.ed.gov](https://fsapartners.ed.gov) and search for the school code.

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

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

- A written request with the school's name and address
- The school's website

We will evaluate the school's criteria to determine if the school qualifies for scholarship funds based on SMART policies.

**32. 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.
- 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.

**33. 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. An email copy of the letter will be sent to the email address we have on file for your account. 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.**

**34. How do I know the funds were sent?**

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."

**35. 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 [form](#).

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

- Mark Martin at [mark.martin@mdusbc.com](mailto:mark.martin@mdusbc.com)
- Karen Hagan at [karen.hagan@michiganstateusbc.com](mailto:karen.hagan@michiganstateusbc.com)

Once the documentation is received and approved, you will be notified by Mark Martin or Karen Hagan. 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

**36. 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 another family member. A complete list of family members who are eligible to receive a transfer is included in the [SMART Policy Manual](#).

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

Funds that are not transferrable:

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

**37. I already paid for my books. Can I be reimbursed?**

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

**38. I already paid my student loans. Can I be reimbursed?**

No. SMART can only send payment to a student loan company on your behalf. Student loan payments are not reimbursable.

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

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



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

The SMART policy allows recipients who enlist in the military to add the number of years of the first enlistment to the expiration of funds.

Your request must be submitted, in writing, **prior to expiration** (eight years from high school graduation/award date). Send an email to [smart@bowl.com](mailto:smart@bowl.com).

Please include:

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

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

Yes. Scholarship funds can be used for anything stated in FAQs 22 and 23. Military grants often do not cover on-campus meal plans, on-campus housing or necessary supplies you can get at the school's bookstore or via SMART reimbursement.

**42. 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.

<p><b>NOTE:</b> <u>MILITARY</u> - The number of years in the first enlistment will be added to the eight years from high school graduation/award date. Request <b>MUST</b> be made prior to expiration of scholarship.</p>
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**43. Can I ask for an extension of my expiration date?**

No. SMART policy does not allow extensions.

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

When scholarships expire, the amount is credited back to the awarding organization for their use in providing future scholarships to more youth.

**45. 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 after high school graduation.

**46. 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.

**47. 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

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

Yes, but in **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.

**49. Where can I find more information on SMART?**

Visit [BOWL.com/smart](http://BOWL.com/smart) for additional information.

**50. How can I reach SMART?**

Phone: 800-514-2695, ext. 8968

Email: [smart@bowl.com](mailto:smart@bowl.com)

Address: SMART  
621 Six Flags Drive  
Arlington, TX 76011