

2025 HORATIO ALGER SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

PATRICIA COLE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDANCE

Overview:

Thank you for your support in helping us select this year's recipients of the Patricia Cole Scholarship. In 2025, we will award 12 scholarships at \$12,500 each to deserving young people.

The Patricia Cole Scholarship Program is designed to support students who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, demonstrate financial need, and aspire to pursue higher education. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are planning to pursue a degree in **business or STEM (science, technology, engineering or mathematics)** starting in Fall 2025.

Overall, at least **half of the scholarship recipients must be female** students.

Key Award Criteria to Consider:

- Display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity
- Belief in the American Dream
- Academic achievement (GPA, enrollment in rigorous coursework, high-level math courses)
- Program of study (must be business or STEM, ideally representing half of each)

Differentiating Candidates:

Selecting scholarship recipients is both a rewarding and challenging process. Many candidates will exhibit strong qualifications across our core criteria, making final decisions especially difficult. When ranking applicants, consider the following approach:

1. **Core Selection Criteria** – Start by evaluating candidates on their demonstrated integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, their belief in the American Dream, and their academic achievement (GPA and rigorous coursework). Give weight to compelling personal narratives, particularly those showing resilience and determination. [Refer to the general Review Guidance & Criteria here.](#)
2. **Program of Study & Gender Balance** – Ensure that selected candidates represent a balanced mix of business and STEM fields, ideally with half from each. Additionally, at least half of the recipients must be female, requiring careful ranking among qualified female applicants.
3. **State Representation** – Aim for geographic diversity, ensuring that the final pool includes students from a variety of U.S. states. Since this scholarship is not state-specific, please do not rank separately by state, but as one combined list.
4. **Making Tough Decisions** – When faced with similarly strong candidates, consider:
 - The depth and impact of their **adversity and perseverance**—whose story reflects exceptional resilience?
 - The strength of their **belief in the American Dream**—who articulates this most compellingly?
 - Whether their **intended school or program** aligns with long-term success in business or STEM.
 - If gender balance is a determining factor, prioritize based on overall strength across all criteria.

Ultimately, our goal is to select a **well-rounded, diverse** group of scholars who not only meet the criteria but stand out in their ability to overcome obstacles, pursue opportunity, and belief in the American Dream.

Review and Awarding Process:

Applications will have already undergone an initial review for basic eligibility for criteria such as:

- Demonstrating financial need (\$65,000 or lower adjusted gross family income)
- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Eligible program of study
- Eligible school (cannot be for-profit or an online program)

However, if you come across any applications that do not meet these criteria, please flag and mark them as '**Do Not Recommend.**'

The first 12 ranked on your list will be offered the scholarship. Should any not respond or decline the award, the next applicant on the ranking list will be offered the scholarship until all 12 are awarded and accepted.