Cathy Houlihan First Gen Scholarship

Announcing a $2500 scholarship for BA student who is majoring in social work and are a first generation college student. At the University of Iowa, first-generation students are those students who do not have a parent(s) or guardian(s) who completed a four-year degree. This fund is established by Cathy Houlihan, a 1978 BA Social Work alumna. Ms. Houlihan’s interest is in supporting first generation college students in the major. One award will be funded.

Students self-nominate.
Application includes:
  • A ONE PAGE essay stating that you are a first-generation college student and informing the donor of how the gift will benefit you in your social work career.
  • The name of one social work faculty member who would support your self-nomination.

The applicant must be enrolled in the SW program currently (fall semester) and in the spring semester when the award is received.

The review panel will also review the candidate’s essays submitted as part of their BA Social Work application materials to select the award recipients.

One recipient will be chosen and will be expected to write to Ms. Houlihan, and to meet with her if she visits campus.

Application deadline: Friday, November 8, 2024. The selection will be made on or about December 15, 2024 with disbursement of the $2500 award to be made to the student’s University account in January 2025.

How to apply
  • Accept invitation to join School of Social Work Scholarships ICON site.
  • Once in the site, locate the Module titled, Cathy Houlihan First Generation Scholarship.
  • Upload your statement with your name at the top and the name of a social work faculty member who has agreed to be a reference.

Questions may be directed to Kate-kemp@uiowa.edu

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