

Knight-Hennessy Scholars Program

The Program prepares a new generation of leaders with a deep academic foundation and the broad skill set to develop creative solutions to effect positive change in the world.

I. Eligibility

- Citizens of all countries
- Applying to enroll in any full-time graduate degree program at Stanford
- You are in your final year of study for your bachelor's degree or within four years of earning your bachelor's degree (Veterans - six years).

II. Awards

- Tuition and fees
- Stipend for living and academic expenses
- Travel stipend to cover an economy-class ticket for one annual trip to and from Stanford.

III. Criteria

1. Independence of Thought

- Demonstrates mental sharpness and intellectual ability
- Seeks out knowledge and new experiences
- Full of original ideas
- Makes sense of ambiguous situations
- Can hold a contrarian or dissenting point of view

2. Purposeful Leadership

- Ambitious, in the best sense of the word
- Driven to improve self
- Able to include and elevate others
- Self-aware and adaptable
- Persistent and resilient

3. Civic Mindset

- Personally humble and kind
- Supportive and accountable
- Embraces difference
- Concerned for and helpful to others

IV. Application Package

Online Application

Transcript(s)

Standardized Test Scores (if your graduate program requires)

Resume (1 page) – highlights of your experiences, interests, and academic record in reverse-chronological order.

Two recommendation letters

- They must be able to provide specific examples, anecdotes, and evidence of your ability and determination to make a difference.
- The Knight-Hennessy program reviews your departmental recommendation letters. As such, your recommendation choices for the Scholars program should make a compelling independent case and complement your graduate program.

Short Answers and essay

- Describe your short term and long term academic and professional intentions. (250 word limit)
- Please tell us when you: (limit 250 words for all three responses combined)
 - Engaged with someone with a different perspective
 - Acted with courage
 - Fell short of expectations
- Please tell us eight improbable facts (things that are unlikely but true) about you. (Limit 150 words)
- Connect the dots. How have the influences in your life shaped you? (550-word limit)
- Video (invitation only for up to 500 applicants in January) – “Teach something to your cohort of fellow Knight-Hennessy Scholars.” (2-min max)

V. Selection Process

- Early June: Application opens
- **October 8, 2025**: Deadline of Knight Hennessy Application
- January: Notification of Finalists
- Late February: Up to 150 finalists invited to Stanford for “Immersion Weekend”
- Mid March: 100 Knight-Hennessy Scholars Announced

VI. Website

- <https://knight-hennessy.stanford.edu> - Knight-Hennessy Scholars Program Official Site
- <https://apply.knight-hennessy.stanford.edu/portal/admission-events-> Knight-Hennessy Scholars Program Information Sessions

2025 cohort Stats:

- 84 scholars from 25 countries out of 8,570 applicants
- 48% international scholars
- 53% identify as a person of color
- 11% served in the U.S military
- 18% First Generation Students
- 17% Business, 15% Education, 25% Engineering, 21% Humanities & Sciences, 17% Law, 26% Medicine, 5% Sustainability