

*Helping our local graduates build
a future!*

*Your Gift is Making a
Difference*

2026-7

President COBSS- Colleen Cowman

Past-President COBSS- Lorraine

Miller





History and Mission

Founded in 1971

Celebrating 50 years of community support for students' post secondary education

Mission Statement

The Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society (COBSS) is a non-profit society made up of dedicated local volunteers. Together with the community, we help provide financial assistance to Grade 12 grads pursuing post-secondary education

Founders



Harry Dewar
SD23 Administrator



Ken Harding
Whillis Harding
Insurance



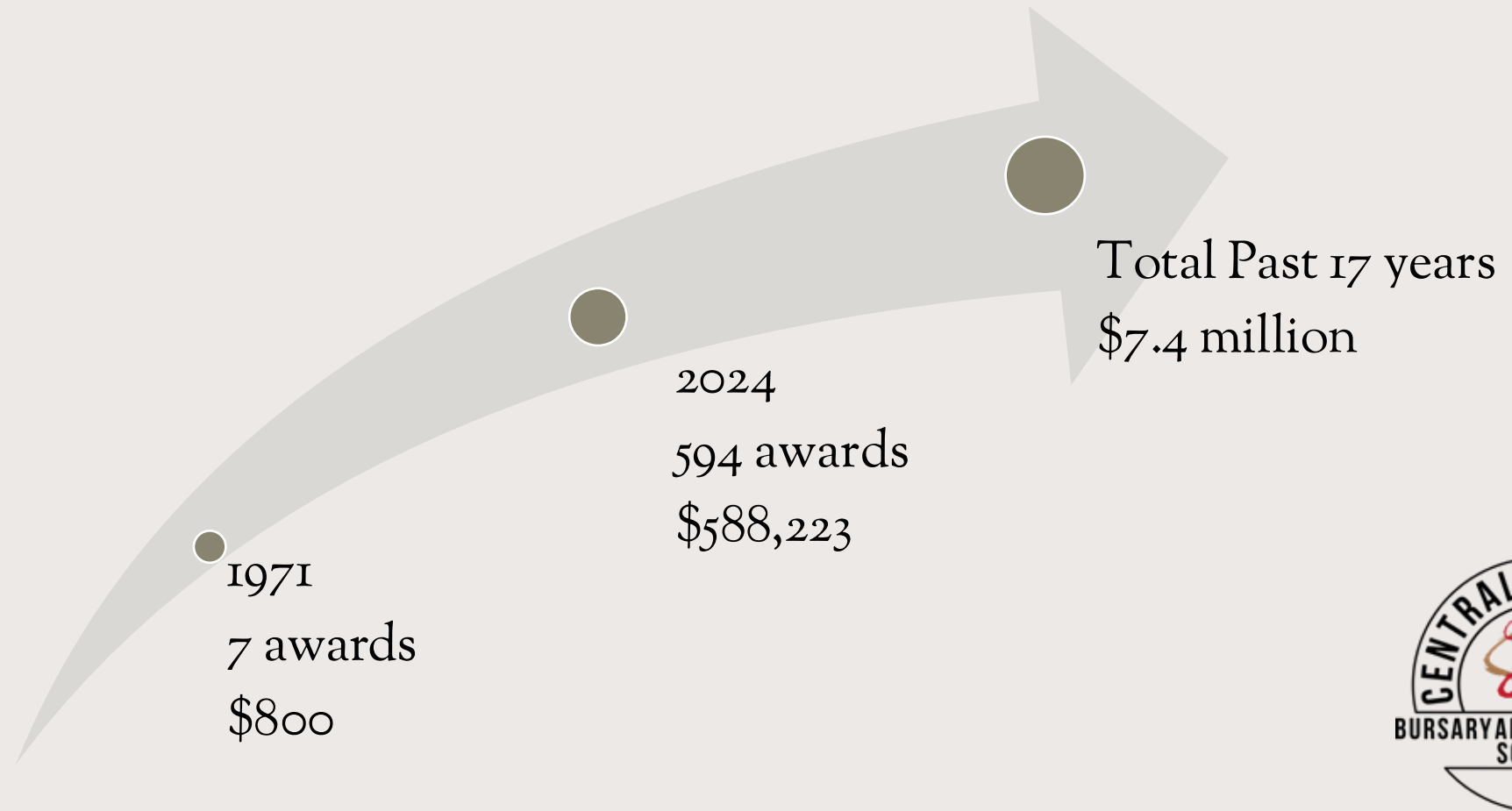
Lou Dedinsky
SD23 Administrator



Rosemary King
SD23
Administrator



How we have grown



JUNE 2026 C.O.B.S.S. awards

583 COBSS
awards

Total value
of awards
\$603,811

633 Student
applications



Community awards

- Criteria set by donor
 - *Individuals*
 - *Sport groups*
 - *Community groups (e.g., Rotary, CFUW, Lions Clubs)*
 - *Local Businesses*
 - *Memorials*

- *Comes from the community and stays in the community*



Blandon Sisters - full circle

What types of awards?

Bursary

Scholarship

Award





Team & partners

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DONORS

SD 23

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

GRADUATING STUDENTS

SCHOOL COUNSELLORS

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ADVISOR

GRADUATING Students



One application submitted online - access to hundreds of awards



Counsellor coordination and support



Member schools (SD 23 public schools, Independent schools)

ELIGIBILITY

1. Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or refugee living within the boundaries of Central Okanagan Public Schools.
2. Must be applying/have applied and plan to **attend FULL TIME** at an **accredited** post-secondary institution in **September of graduation year.**
3. Obtain a minimum of 60% average in all grade 11 and 12 courses.
4. Registered in a minimum of six (6) courses during grade 12 year, and will complete a minimum of six (6) courses by June 30th not including the grade 12 Capstone Careers course.
5. Have potential to graduate for the first time this June.
6. Attending one of the member schools of COBSS as their home school during graduation year.

MEMBER SCHOOLS



Aberdeen Hall Preparatory School

Central Programs & Services

Ecole de L'anse au Sable

eSchool23

Flex Academy

George Elliot Secondary School

Kelowna Christian School

Kelowna Secondary School

Heritage Christian Online School

Immaculata Regional High School

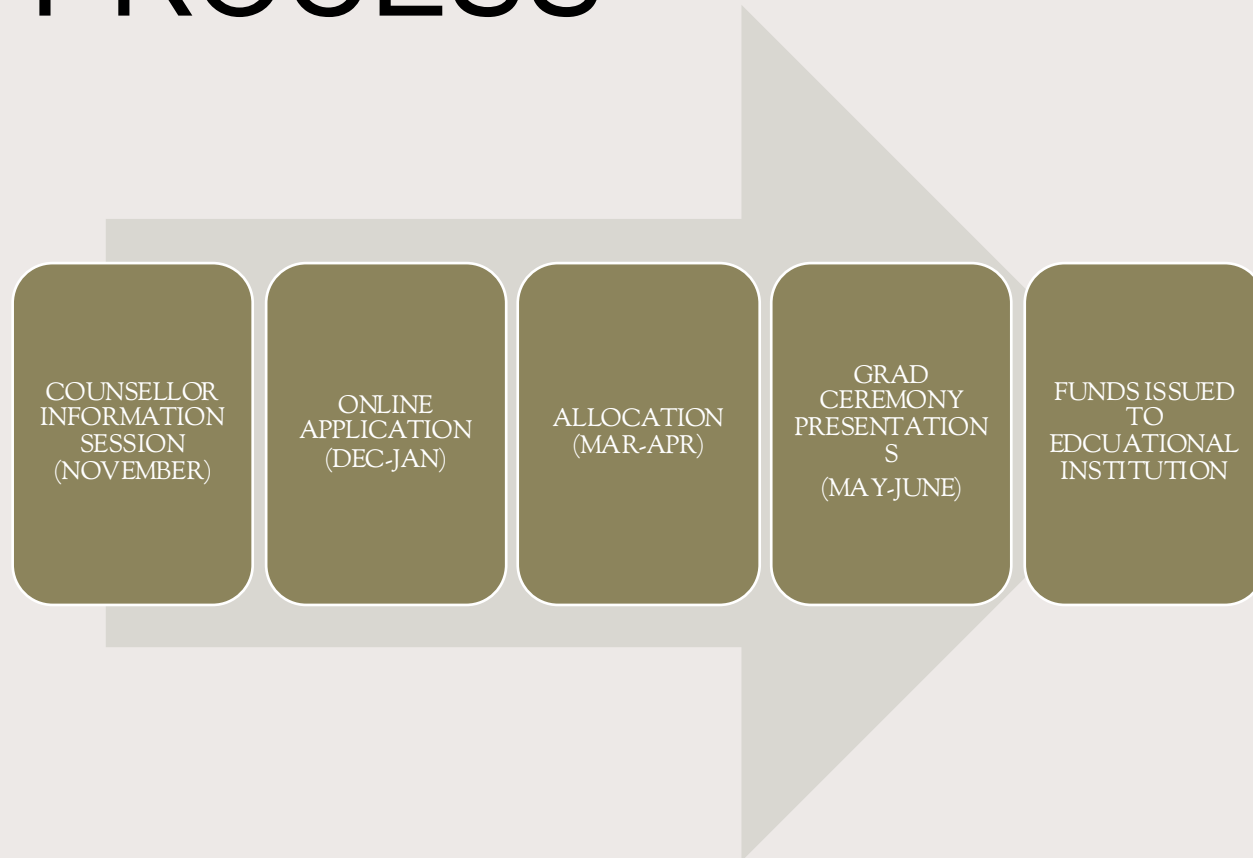
Mount Boucherie Secondary School

Okanagan Christian School

Okanagan Mission Secondary School

Rutland Senior Secondary School

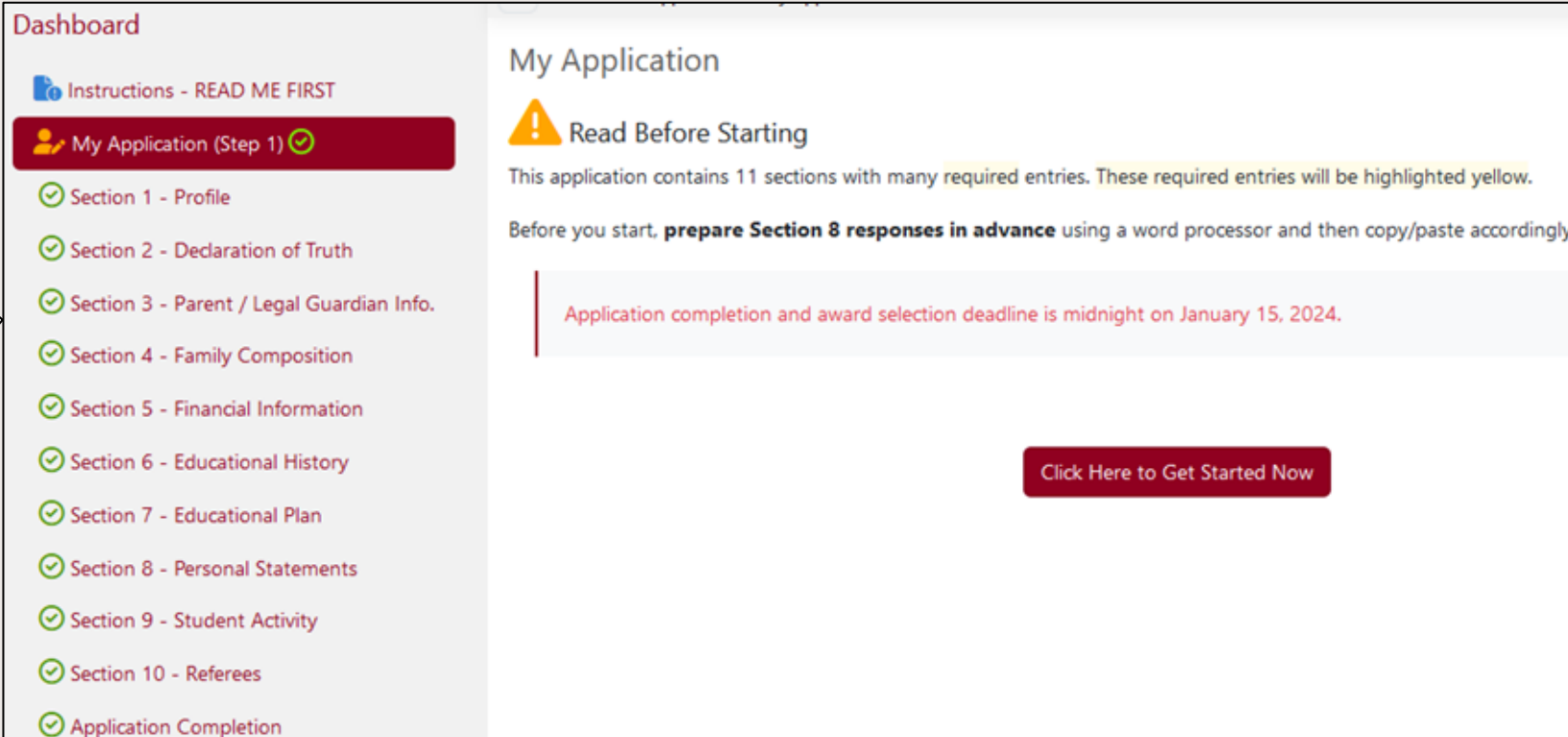
PROCESS



MY APPLICATION

There are **ten sections** and the **Application Completion step** to be completed.

When a section is completed, the check mark will be **green**.



The screenshot displays a web application interface. On the left is a 'Dashboard' sidebar with a list of sections, each preceded by a green checkmark icon. The sections are: 'My Application (Step 1)', 'Section 1 - Profile', 'Section 2 - Declaration of Truth', 'Section 3 - Parent / Legal Guardian Info.', 'Section 4 - Family Composition', 'Section 5 - Financial Information', 'Section 6 - Educational History', 'Section 7 - Educational Plan', 'Section 8 - Personal Statements', 'Section 9 - Student Activity', 'Section 10 - Referees', and 'Application Completion'. A curved arrow points from the 'My Application (Step 1)' item to the main content area. The main content area is titled 'My Application' and features a yellow warning icon and the text 'Read Before Starting'. Below this, it states: 'This application contains 11 sections with many required entries. These required entries will be highlighted yellow. Before you start, **prepare Section 8 responses in advance** using a word processor and then copy/paste accordingly.' A light blue box contains the text: 'Application completion and award selection deadline is midnight on January 15, 2024.' At the bottom right of the main content area is a red button labeled 'Click Here to Get Started Now'.

MY APPLICATION

- This is where your personality shows through and helps the committee with its decision.
- BE **CREATIVE, HONEST** and **CONCISE** and remember to proofread your answers.
- With your words, you are trying to create a vision in the donor's mind of who you are, what your goals and dreams are and why you deserve to be selected for the award.

QUESTION 1:

What are your educational/career plans?
Describe the experiences that have contributed to these plans.

TIPS:

- Try to be original and creative.
- Do not start with “My name is__ and I am in grade 12 at __.”

QUESTION 2:

For the selection committee, describe the three qualities that best demonstrate your character. Use examples from your life to illustrate these qualities.

TIPS:

- Try to get across who you are and what you are about in words.
- You want to stand out in the sea of applications.

QUESTION 3:

Describe your family (include custodial and non-custodial parent information). Explain any financial and non-financial struggles that you may have encountered.

TIPS:

- Remember that financial need is one of the areas that selection is based on for COBSS awards.
- This is a snapshot of your current family and financial situation.

MY APPLICATION

Eg. of Community & School Based Involvement & Achievement:

The screenshot displays a web application interface for 'MY APPLICATION'. On the left is a navigation sidebar with a 'Dashboard' section containing links for 'Instructions - READ ME FIRST', 'My Application (Step 1)', and sections 1 through 10, plus 'Select Awards (Step 2)' and a 'Completion Checklist'. The main content area is titled 'Activity Details' and includes a breadcrumb trail: '/ Student / Application / Activity Details'. Below the title is a descriptive paragraph: 'In the spaces provided please include experience, activities & achievements from **Grades 10-12**, starting with the most recent experience in each section (maximum 3 in each section)'. The interface is divided into three main sections: 'Community & School Based Involvement & Achievements', 'Volunteer Experience', and 'Paid Work Experience'. Each section has a header with instructions and a table for data entry. The 'Community & School Based Involvement & Achievements' table contains one entry for a basketball referee role.

Community & School Based Involvement & Achievements				
(List any extracurricular involvement outside of classroom time which can include athletics, fine arts, music, certifications. Please do not list school courses)				
Organization	What is the activity/achievement? (255 characters max)	Dates (mm/yyyy-mm/yyyy)	Estimated Total Activity Hours (per week)	Total Overall Hours for This Activity
Kelowna 1 Minor Basketball	Basketball Referee	12/2022-03/2023	5	100

Volunteer Experience				
(list any unpaid and non credit Community & School experience.)				
Organization	What are your responsibilities/activities? (255 characters max)	Dates (mm/yyyy-mm/yyyy)	Estimated Total Activity Hours (per week)	Total Overall Hours for This Activity

Paid Work Experience				
Organization	What is your job title and duties? (255 characters max)	Dates (mm/yyyy-mm/yyyy)	Estimated Total Activity Hours (per week)	Total Overall Hours for This Activity

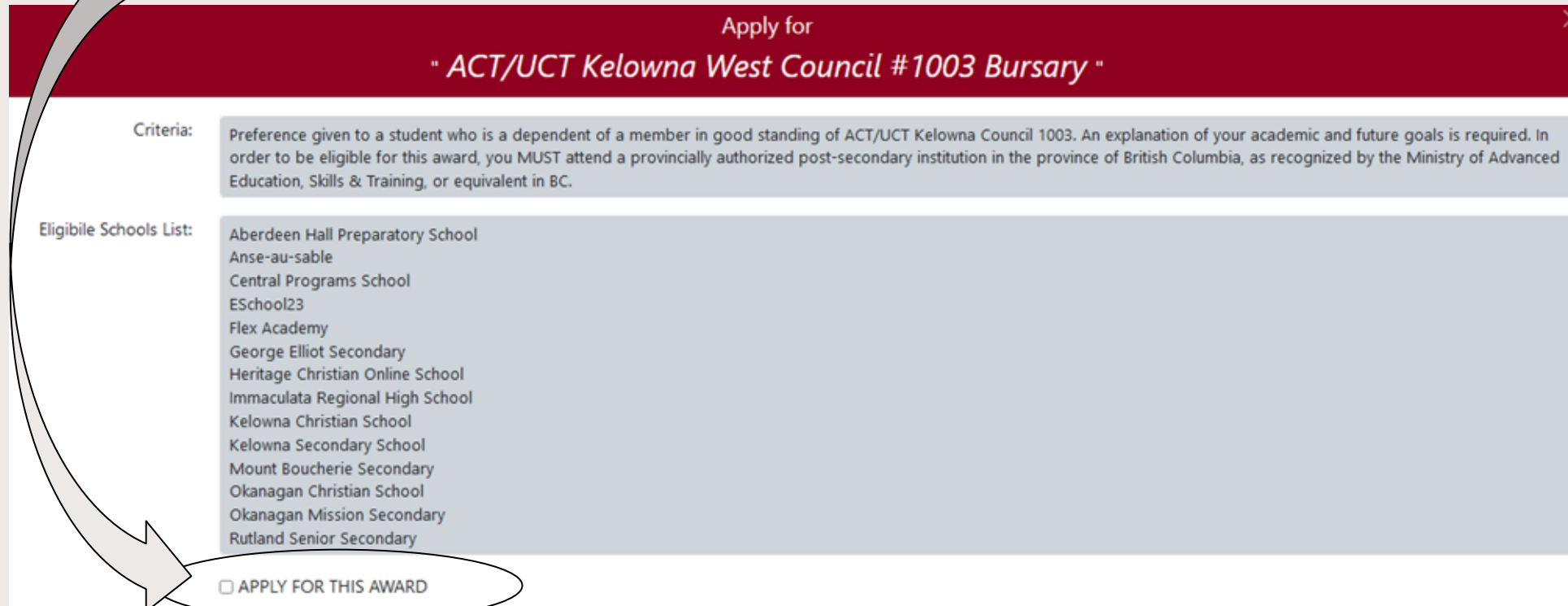
STATEMENT OF REFERENCE

- Consider community people, employers, and teachers as potential referees. (One teacher and one community reference is recommended.)
- Choose referees carefully and contact them in advance for permission.

The screenshot shows a web application interface for 'Referees'. On the left is a 'Dashboard' sidebar with a list of sections: 'Instructions - READ ME FIRST', 'My Application (Step 1)', 'Section 1 - Profile', 'Section 2 - Declaration of Truth', 'Section 3 - Parent / Legal Guardian Info.', 'Section 4 - Family Composition', 'Section 5 - Financial Information', 'Section 6 - Educational History', 'Section 7 - Educational Plan', 'Section 8 - Personal Statements', 'Section 9 - Student Activity', and 'Section 10 - Referees'. 'Section 10 - Referees' is circled in black. The main content area is titled 'Referees' and features a '+ Add Referee' button. Below the button, there is a text prompt: 'Please provide **two** referees. Once you complete your application, they will each be sent an email with instructions on how to complete their Statement of Reference.' A warning box with a yellow triangle icon contains the text: 'It is imperative that you enter each referee's email address correctly'. At the bottom of the main area, there is a left arrow button and a green 'Continue' button.

SELECT AWARDS

Click on **APPLY FOR THIS AWARD**



Apply for
" ACT/UCT Kelowna West Council #1003 Bursary "

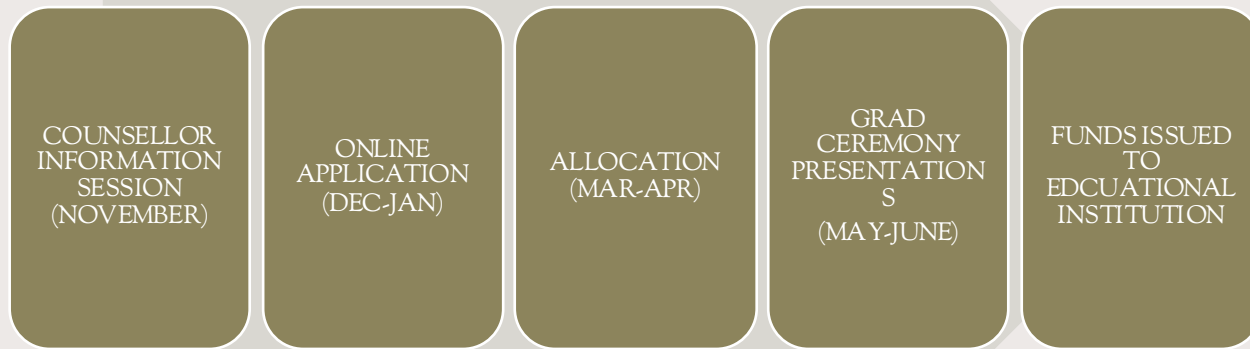
Criteria: Preference given to a student who is a dependent of a member in good standing of ACT/UCT Kelowna Council 1003. An explanation of your academic and future goals is required. In order to be eligible for this award, you **MUST** attend a provincially authorized post-secondary institution in the province of British Columbia, as recognized by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training, or equivalent in BC.

Eligible Schools List:

- Aberdeen Hall Preparatory School
- Anse-au-sable
- Central Programs School
- ESchool23
- Flex Academy
- George Elliot Secondary
- Heritage Christian Online School
- Immaculata Regional High School
- Kelowna Christian School
- Kelowna Secondary School
- Mount Boucherie Secondary
- Okanagan Christian School
- Okanagan Mission Secondary
- Rutland Senior Secondary

APPLY FOR THIS AWARD

PROCESS



Applications read only by
counsellors, donors and
COBSS members.
Confidentiality paramount



SELECTION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING THREE AREAS:

- I. **FINANCIAL NEED** – based on line 15000 of tax return and any special circumstances

- I. **ACADEMIC ABILITY** – the average of student's Grade 11 and Grade 12 marks

- I. **ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP** – such as involvement in school and community



PLEASE REMEMBER

If you are a COBSS award recipient, please:

- Write an immediate thank you note to your donor.
- A follow up thank you note in the early fall is always a kind gesture.

TIP:

- Keep a binder of all your awards so that you can track them accurately and use them before they expire.

Cost of education

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/post-secondary-education/data-research/bc_tuition_fees.pdf

Cost of a Four-Year University Degree, By Province¹

Province	Ranking of Most Expensive Provinces By Education Costs Next Year (Including Residence)	Cost of Education Next Year (Including Residence)	Comparison to National Average (Cost of Education Next Year)	What Education Will Cost In 18 Years (Including Residence, Forecast)	Education Cost Growth Over The Next 18 Years (Compared to 2024 Costs)	Year That Children Are Forecast To Pay More Than \$100,000 For School, By Province
Canada	National	\$75,387	-	\$104,898	39 %	2039
Nova Scotia	1	\$88,490	17 %	\$132,565	50 %	2029
Ontario	2	\$86,106	14 %	\$114,024	32 %	2034
New Brunswick	3	\$83,162	10 %	\$116,741	40 %	2033
Saskatchewan	4	\$80,761	7 %	\$115,014	42 %	2034
Alberta	5	\$78,034	4 %	\$104,493	34 %	2039
Prince Edward Island	6	\$76,802	2 %	\$105,879	38 %	2038
Quebec	7	\$69,719	-8 %	\$96,919	39 %	-
British Columbia	8	\$68,495	-9 %	\$93,668	37 %	-
Manitoba	9	\$67,934	-10 %	\$95,705	41 %	-
Newfoundland	10	\$54,366	-28 %	\$73,975	36 %	-

¹Employment and Social Development Canada's (ESDC) Canadian Post-Secondary Institution Collection (CPIC) database found at. www.newswire.ca, January 2024



Your gift makes a difference!

Thank you

Central Okanagan Bursary And Scholarship Society

- Address: 110-1040 Hollywood Rd S, Kelowna, BC, V1X 4N2
- Phone: [250 870 5185](tel:2508705185)
- Email: cobss@sd23.bc.ca

