



## **Gygi & von Wyss Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions**

Please read through the following FAQs before completing the application.

### **1. What is the Gygi & von Wyss Scholarship Foundation?**

Gygi and von Wyss Scholarships are granted in memory of Dr. Hans Gygi, the founder and longtime chairman of Dundee Cement, and Marc R. von Wyss, Holcim's former President and CEO. We continue this tradition because we see this as an investment in our children's futures and another way we support and care for our employees.

### **2. Am I eligible to apply for the scholarship?**

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must be the natural, adopted, step-child or ward of an eligible US employee of Holcim (US) Inc., Holcim - ACM Management, Inc. and their wholly-owned subsidiaries. An eligible employee is defined as being union or non-union hourly and salaried exempt and non-exempt

Employees must have been continuously employed for more than 12 months as of August 31, 2024, worked in excess of 1,000 hours during the period of September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, and be actively employed as of the date of the scholarship award or inactive due to retirement, death, disability, reduction in force or temporary layoff.

### **3. How much money does the scholarship offer?**

The scholarship offers a maximum value of \$24,000 towards a four-year college program. This breaks down to \$6,000 per year, and \$3,000 per semester.

### **4. What charges does the scholarship cover?**

The scholarship money can only be used for tuition, fees and books per the bylaws of the Foundation.

### **5. When is the deadline for submitting an application?**

A complete scholarship package including application and required documentation must be received by the Foundation no later than **January 15, 2025.**

**6. Can I apply for the scholarship if I am already attending college?**

YES! The program is open to students in their senior year of high school, students who have already graduated high school but have not started college, or students who have NOT completed **one** academic year (or the equivalent) at a post-secondary institution at the time of selection.

**7. Do I need to have a specific GPA to apply?**

Applicants are required to have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent.

**8. Do I need to have specific test scores (ACT or SAT) to apply?**

Yes you must take either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and upload a scanned copy of the test results to the online application.

**9. How do I submit my application?**

Applications can be completed online through the link found on the [Gygi and von Wyss Scholarship Program](#) page on the Holcim US intranet page. Gygi and von Wyss Scholarship Program link

**10. What documents do I need to provide as part of the application process?**

As part of the online application you will need to provide the following documents:

- A copy of your official ACT and/or SAT scores
- High School Course outline form completed by a high school administrator.
  - This form must be completed even if you have already graduated high school
  - This form must be completed and submitted for your application to be accepted
  - School guides, curriculum overviews and other alternative documentation will not be accepted
  - The form can be found at <https://www.holcim.us/gygi-and-von-wyss-scholarship-program>
- Work Experience & Extra-Curricular Activities form
  - This form must be completed and submitted for your application to be accepted
  - Resumes, portfolios and other alternative documentation will not be accepted
  - The form can be found at <https://www.holcim.us/gygi-and-von-wyss-scholarship-program>
- Copy of senior year high school schedule (Not needed if student has graduated high school already)
- Essay 1

- Please write a brief essay (approximately one page in length) expressing your educational and career goals and the factors that helped to influence those goals.
- Essay 2
  - Please write a brief essay (approximately ½ to one page in length) in response to ONE of the following questions. (Please be sure to highlight the question you selected.)
    - A. Describe how your past experiences or activities have shaped your character in a way that you believe will ensure your success on campus.
    - B. Give an example of a time when you had a choice between what you know was right and what you saw was easy? What did you choose and why?
    - C. Have you ever struggled for something you really wanted, but failed to achieve it? How did you respond?

Additionally there are documents that will need to be provided to the Gygi & von Wyss Foundation directly by a third party. These documents can be emailed to [Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com](mailto:Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com) or mailed to “Gygi & von Wyss Foundation, Attn: Sarah Austin, 6211 Ann Arbor Rd, Dundee, MI 48131”

- Official copy of your High School Transcript
- Official copy of the transcript from any post-secondary instruction where the student has earned credits. (Includes dual enrollment while in high school unless those grades are listed on the high school transcript)
- Letter of Recommendation from a teacher who has taught the applicant in an academic subject within two (2) years of the date of this application.
- Optional second letter of recommendation. (A second letter of recommendation from another unrelated individual who has known the applicant for at least two years may be included)

#### **11. Can I apply for the scholarship if my sister/brother won in previous years?**

Yes, you are eligible to apply for and win the scholarship. The scholarship recipients are selected by the Scholarship Committee. Since all of the applications are submitted to the Scholarship Committee anonymously (the student’s name, location and other identifying factors are removed from the applications before they are judged), each applicant is considered on his/her merits alone.

#### **12. How many people are awarded the scholarship?**

A maximum of eight students will win the scholarship. In addition, up to eight alternates will be chosen in the event that a winner declines the award or fails to meet the requirements to continue receiving the award.

#### **13. When are the winners announced and how are they selected?**

Selections will be made by the Scholarship Committee of the Foundation which comprises

three members – all of whom are faculty or staff members at universities. Recipients will be selected based on: character, ACT or SAT scores, high school grades, curriculum, recommendations, activities, and the two essays describing the student's goals and character. Financial need is not a criterion. The recipients will be announced by May 1, 2025.

**14. Who should write my letters of reference?**

Only one letter of reference is required, however, two letters may be submitted. The required letter of recommendation must come from an instructor who has taught you in an academic subject within two years of the date of the application. If a second letter of recommendation is submitted, it may come from an unrelated individual who has known the applicant for at least two years.

**15. What instructions should I give to the person(s) writing my letters of recommendation?**

Contact the individual and ask if he/she will write a letter of recommendation. Provide the individual with the following information and any other details that will help them write a recommendation to support your application. The letter should be sent via email from your reference directly to

- Sarah Austin [Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com](mailto:Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com)
- Phone: 248-830-9093

***Please feel free to share the information listed below with the individual writing your recommendation:***

- The above-named applicant for a Gygi & von Wyss Scholarship has respectfully requested that you write a letter of recommendation relative to scholastic abilities, leadership, citizenship, and character.
- Please have your reference submit your **signed** letter **prior to the deadline of January 15, 2025.**
- Letter of reference should NOT include a listing of involvements as the applicant has already included this information in their application. It should focus on the character of the individual.

**16. Do I have to have my letters of reference, course outline, transcript and ACT/SAT scores in by the deadline?**

Yes, all components of the application **MUST** be submitted by the deadline. Please review the application check list at the end of this document to ensure that you have included all of the requisite materials. Any documents not uploaded with you online application can be emailed to Sarah Austin at [Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com](mailto:Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com).

Transcripts should be sent electronically via an online service such as Parchment.com when possible. If the school does not use an online service, an original transcript should be mailed to Sarah Austin at: 6211 Ann Arbor Road, Dundee, MI 48131

- 17. I have a lot of work experience and extra-curricular activities that I would like to include with my application, but there is not enough room to list everything on the Extra Curricular Activities Form.**

You may submit extra sheets in the same format as the charts listed on the Extra Curricular Activities Resumes or other lists not in this format cannot be accepted as part of the application.

- 18. Who may I contact if I have additional questions?**

You may speak to your local Human Resources representative or call **Sarah Austin**, Secretary of the Gygi and von Wyss Foundation, at 248-839-9093.

**Below is a list of documents that the applicant should submit as part of the online application process or email to [Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com](mailto:Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com) by January 15, 2024**

*Please note all files uploaded or sent electronically should be .PDF or .DOC file type*

- **Essay 1 – Educational and Career Goals** - Please write a brief essay (approximately one page in length) expressing the applicant's educational and career goals and the factors that helped to influence those goals.
- **Essay 2 – Character Essay** - Please write a brief essay (approximately ½ to one page in length) in response to ONE of the following questions. Please be sure to highlight the question selected.
  - A. Describe how your past experiences or activities have shaped your character in a way that you believe will ensure your success on campus.
  - B. Give an example of a time when you had a choice between what you know was right and what you saw was easy? What did you choose and why?
  - C. Have you ever struggled for something you really wanted, but failed to achieve it? How did you respond?
- **Work and Extra-Curricular Activities Form** - The form can be downloaded at <https://www.holcim.us/gygi-and-von-wyss-scholarship-program>
- Senior Year Schedule of Classes for the Full Year
  - Only Required if currently enrolled in High School
- SAT or ACT official results document
  - This can be a screen shot from the testing website as long as it shows the applicant's name and score
  - The results do not need to be sent to Holcim by the testing agency
  - Having the score listed on the high school transcript does NOT meet this requirement
- High School Course Outline
  - The form can be downloaded at <https://www.holcim.us/gygi-and-von-wyss-scholarship-program>
  - Form must be completed **and signed** by a counselor or administrator at the applicant's school
  - Should list the 4 highest courses offered at the applicant's school in each subject and note if the applicant has taken any of those classes
  - Document can be uploaded or emailed to Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com by the applicant

**Below is a list of documents that MUST be sent directly from the school or reference to Sarah Austin by January 15, 2024.**

These may be sent via email to [Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com](mailto:Sarah.Austin@Holcim.com) or by mail to Gygi & von Wyss Foundation c/o Sarah Austin, 6211 Ann Arbor Rd Dundee, MI 48131

*Please note all files sent electronically should be .PDF or .DOC file type*

- **Official High School Transcript** - Transcripts should be sent electronically via an online service such as Parchment.com when possible. If the school does not use an online service, an original transcript should be mailed to Sarah Austin at: 6211 Ann Arbor Road, Dundee, MI 48131
- **\*Official College Transcript** - \*Only Required if the applicant has completed college classes not listed on the applicant's High School Transcript. Transcripts should be sent electronically via an online service such as Parchment.com when possible. If the school does not use an online service, an original transcript should be mailed to Sarah Austin at: 6211 Ann Arbor Road, Dundee, MI 48131
- **Letter of Recommendation #1** - Must be from a Teacher who has who has taught the applicant in an academic subject within two years of the date of the application.
- **\*Letter of Recommendation #2** - \*Optional, can be from any unrelated individual who has known the applicant for at least two years.