



2020 Application

Scholastic Honors Program
Coordinator
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Dear Athletes:

U.S. Figure Skating and the Program Development Committee are pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2020 Scholastic Honors Team. The Scholastic Honors Team is a program designed to recognize high school-age U.S. Figure Skating members who have distinguished themselves in figure skating, high school academics, and extracurricular and community activities.

The entrance criteria are included in the enclosed information packet. Please feel free to copy the application. The application and all supporting materials must be fully completed and **postmarked by Friday, Sept. 13, 2019** to be eligible for consideration.

Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 will not be considered. If you have any questions, please either contact me using the information provided above or email U.S. Figure Skating at FinancialAid@usfigureskating.org.

Thank you for your interest in the Scholastic Honors Team. The committee looks forward to receiving your application.

Good luck!



Jonathan Geen
Coordinator, Scholastic Honors Program

What is the Scholastic Honors Team?

The U.S. Figure Skating Scholastic Honors Team was established to recognize and provide support to competitive figure skaters who have excelled not just in their sport, but also in high school academics and in their contributions to their communities. The Scholastic Honors Team is a joint effort between U.S. Figure Skating and the Program Development Committee.

To be eligible for the Team, skaters must be entering the junior or senior year of high school and have competed at a U.S. Figure Skating qualifying competition in singles, pairs, ice dancing and/or synchronized skating at the novice level or above during the past two years. Ten skaters are selected to the Team each year.

As the total number of applications received for the Team has increased, the selection process has become more competitive. In an effort to further recognize the achievements of this year's applicants, as many as 10 additional applicants will be named to the "Honorable Mention Roll."

Scholastic Honors Team members will receive:

- On-ice recognition at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January and a profile in SKATING magazine
- A \$2,500 scholarship to help defray academic expenses
- A Scholastic Honors Team jacket
- A notice sent to his or her school and local media outlets
- A \$1,000 donation made in his or her honor to a charity selected by the skater in the skater's hometown or area

Scholastic Honors Team Honorable Mention Roll members will receive:

- A listing in SKATING magazine
- A notice sent to his or her school and local media outlets

Application Instructions

Eligible applicants must:

- Be a current member of U.S. Figure Skating.
- Be a full-time student entering the junior or senior year of high school in the fall of 2018. Applicant must be enrolled in a fully accredited secondary school, attend classes and carry the minimum number of credit hours necessary to be a full-time student as defined by the student's high school's registrar.
- Have maintained at least a 3.4 GPA (based on a 4.0 scale) or 93% (based on a 100% scale) during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.
- Have competed in a U.S. Figure Skating qualifying competition (regional, sectional and/or U.S. Championships) at the novice-, junior- or senior-level in singles, pairs, ice dance and/or synchronized skating at least once during the past two seasons (2017-2018 and/or 2018-2019).

*NOTE: A skater may apply as a junior or senior in high school to be considered for the team. However, a skater selected to the team as a junior will **not** be eligible for selection to the team as a senior. Those selected to Honorable Mention as a junior may reapply in their senior year if eligible.*

Applicants must complete and submit the following by Friday Sept. 13th, 2019:

- An official 2020 Scholastic Honors Team application. Application may be neatly handwritten or typed. **The total submission is not to exceed 10 pages.** Submission need not include the "Application Instructions" pages.

An official copy of a high school transcript, including grades through the last reporting period.

- Transcript must be mailed; faxes or copies will not be accepted. Transcripts can be mailed separately or with the rest of the application.

SAT/ACT test results to the extent the skater has taken one or both exams and has received test

- results. Any official communication/email/print-out is sufficient to show the test results.

An explanation from the applicant's school of how grade point averages are computed and weighted,

- including any information on weighing AP and honors classes.

A color head-and-shoulders photograph, **at least 4x6 in size.** This photo will **not** be returned to the

- applicant. Copies or faxes of photos will not be accepted.

Essays on two of the topics listed, one not exceeding 50 words and the other not exceeding 250 words.

Applicant is **NOT** to submit any of the following:

Videos, DVDs, CDs, or any other media.

- Letters of reference or recommendation. **PLEASE NOTE: submitting a reference/recommendation letter will result in automatic disqualification!**

Any materials or application portions after the deadline. To be fair to everyone, no exceptions

- will be made for any reason.

Application Instructions, Cont.

Additional Information

- Please do not staple or bind the application in any way.
- The completed application form and all supporting documents **must be postmarked or received by Friday, Sept. 13, 2019**. Materials may be submitted,
By mail, to Scholastic Honors Team Application By email, to FinancialAid@usfigureskating.org
c/o U.S. Figure Skating
20 First Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80906 U.S. Figure Skating will **not** accept faxed materials.
- Failure to meet the stated criteria and/or the appropriate deadline will result in disqualification.
- All applicants will be notified of the results via email. All selections are considered final and may not be appealed. All submitted materials will become the property of U.S. Figure Skating and will not be returned.
- Scholastic Honors Team selections will be recognized in SKATING magazine and formally presented during the Scholastic Honors Team ceremony at the 2020 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, NC. Honorable Mention selections will also be recognized in SKATING magazine.

Application Review Process

Each fully completed application will be initially reviewed by the Scholastic Honors program coordinator. Thereafter, applications will be reviewed by a selection committee from around the country that is knowledgeable and passionate about both the sport of figure skating and scholastic achievement. While committee members come from diverse backgrounds, each member is a high-level figure skating judge with impressive academic and professional credentials.

In reviewing each application and selecting the 2020 Scholastic Honors Team, the committee will weigh and consider a number of factors, including:

- The applicant's academic performance, as indicated by grade point average, class rank, the number, variety and difficulty of courses taken (such as AP and honors classes), and the reputation of the applicant's school.
- The applicant's academic performance as indicated by academic honors, awards, and designations.
- The variety and extent of the applicant's involvement in community and extracurricular activities.
- The applicant's achievements as a competitive figure skater.
- The creativity, clarity, writing style and grammar of the applicant's essay.

2020 Scholastic Honors Team Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Home Skating Club: _____ U.S. Figure Skating Member Number: _____

Jacket Size (unisex, please circle one): XXS XS S M L XL XXL

Contact and address for local media outlets (newspaper, radio, or television):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Please attach a separate page with the following information. Full application should not exceed 10 pages.

- **School Awards and Activities**
- **Leadership Experience**
- **Community Service Activities and Awards**

SKATING HISTORY

Highest Test Passed: Figure _____ Pairs _____ Moves in the Field _____
 Freestyle _____ Dance _____

Competition Record: International and U.S. qualifying competitions entered during the 2017-18 and/or 2018-19 competitive seasons.

Competition (Name, Year)	Event	Level	Placement (Required)	Round (Initial/Final, if applicable) (Required)

Other Skating Activities (Club or U.S. Figure Skating activities, Special Olympics, Basic Skills, etc.):

Certification by Club Officer

I hereby approve the application of this skater and certify that he/she is a member of the club in good standing and is an eligible skater in accordance with the U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook.

Name of Club Officer _____ Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

ESSAY TOPICS

Please choose one essay prompt from each of the following word length categories. You will submit a total of *two* original typed essays (**one from the maximum of 50 words category, the other from the maximum of 250 words category**). Please identify which essay prompt you have chosen to write about.

50 Word Maximum Essay - please select one of the following:

- 1) What historical skating performance or event do you wish you could have witnessed?
- 2) What five words best describe you?
- 3) How did you spend your last two summers?

250 Word Maximum Essay - please select one of the following:

- 1) What matters most to you and why?
- 2) Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea? What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- 3) The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident in your skating when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

CERTIFICATION BY SCHOOL OFFICIAL *(Principal or Guidance Counselor)*

I have reviewed the academic information provided by the applicant in this application and I attest that, to the best of my knowledge, it is accurate.

School Official:

Signature

Date

Print Name

Title

CERTIFICATION BY APPLICANT

By signing this, under penalty of forfeiture of any funds that may be awarded under this program or any other U.S. Figure Skating funding program, I testify to the authenticity and originality of the information represented in this application. I also attest that I did not receive assistance in preparing the essay. I further certify that my first essay contains _____ words less than the 50 word maximum, and the second essay contains _____ less than the 250 word maximum.

Applicant:

Signature

Date

Print Name

Date

U.S. FIGURE SKATING SCHOLASTIC HONORS TEAM FAQs

1. I have not yet competed at the novice level, or have not yet competed at a regional or sectional competition. Am I qualified to apply?

No, you must have competed at the novice level or above at a qualifying competition within the past two years. This requirement is in no way intended to discount the achievements of skaters who have competed at the intermediate level or below and/or those who have competed at non-qualifying competitions. To be fair to all applicants, no exceptions (monetary, health or otherwise) can or will be made if skaters do not meet the minimum requirements by the date of the application deadline.

2. I compete as a Theatre On Ice or a Showcase skater. Am I qualified to apply?

Maybe. Your competitive results as a Theater On Ice and/or Showcase skater should be listed and will be considered. However, Theater On Ice and Showcase do not offer specific “qualifying competitions.” Therefore, you must have also competed at a qualifying competition in the past two years at the novice level or above in singles, pairs, ice dancing or synchronized skating to be eligible for selection to the Scholastic Honors Team.

3. I compete as a Solo Dance skater. Am I qualified to apply?

See the answer to No. 2 above.

4. I currently take a reduced course load. Am I qualified to apply?

It depends how reduced your course load is. You must be taking the minimum number of classes to be considered a “full-time” student by your high school. If your course load is currently reduced, please provide documentation from your high school confirming your full-time student status.

5. I take courses online or by correspondence. Am I qualified to apply?

Probably not. Online and/or correspondence courses will likely not satisfy the requirements of a “full-time” student (attending classes and carrying a full course load). The Scholastic Honors Team is designed to reward those students who balance attending high school with a full class schedule with competitive skating and community involvement. If a student regularly attends class and has a full course load but takes additional online courses, please provide documentation of this with your application.

6. What consideration is given to community involvement and extracurriculars?

In considering an applicant’s achievements outside the rink and the classroom, the selection committee considers the nature and extent of any benefits that the skater has brought to his/her community. Therefore, applicants should detail the nature and extent of their time commitments in these activities and any notable achievements or results from these efforts.

7. I meet all of the minimum requirements. What are my chances of being selected?

An applicant’s chances depend heavily on the quantity and quality of the applications received in any given year. In past years, the applicants selected have generally far exceeded the minimum requirements. You and your family should feel proud if you meet the minimum eligibility requirements, as that alone is a major accomplishment.

Scholastic Honors Team Checklist

Please make sure you've included and/or attached the following:

- **School Honors, Awards and Activities**
- **Community Service Activities and Awards**
- **Skating History**
- **Certification by a Club Officer**
- **Test scores (PSAT, SAT, ACT)**
- **High School Transcript**
- **Certification by a School Official**
- **Essay question answers**

Please direct any questions to financialaid@usfigureskating.org or call 719-228-3424.