



Joint Civic Committee of
Italian Americans

www.jccia.com

3800 Division Street, Stone Park, IL 60165

Phone: (708) 450-9050

Fax: (708) 450-9065

www.jccia.com

jcc@jccia.com

THE JOHN FISCHETTI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 2026

Description of Scholarship:

The Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans (JCCIA) is proud to offer the John Fischetti Scholarship, awarded to students who are of 50% or more of Italian ancestry and have been accepted into or enrolled in an undergraduate degree program majoring in journalism or media communications.

History:

John Fischetti was a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist whose work for many years graced the pages of the New York Herald Tribune, the Chicago Daily News and the Chicago Sun Times. He was also a man whose enthusiasm for life and generosity of spirit won him many friends.

Requirements:

Competitive applicants must be of 50% or more of Italian ancestry, pursuing a degree in journalism or communications, have demonstrated academic achievement, and a resident of Illinois. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their Italian heritage, academic achievement, involvement in school and non-school activities, and the quality of their JCCIA John Fischetti Scholarship application. Applicants must submit proof of being admitted to and/or enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education.

Award Amount:

This scholarship award amount may be up to \$2000.00 for a one-time annual scholarship.

Application Process:

Applicants are required to submit a JCCIA John Fischetti scholarship application and required documents as indicated on the application form. Required documents include a 500-word essay, self-photo, copy of the applicant's transcripts (high school and or college), proof of college acceptance/admittance or current college transcript, two recommendation letters, and any published writings print or digital. All items must be submitted by the deadline application date as one digital pdf file to jcc@jccia.com otherwise the application may be denied.

Deadline for Application:

Students must submit a complete JCCIA John Fischetti scholarship application and required documentation between March 1, 2026, and the deadline date of April 24, 2026, to be considered.

Award Notification:

Award recipients will be notified by May 1, 2026 and will be presented with the award at the JCCIA Dante and DiFrisco Award Luncheon on May 7, 2026 which honors members of Chicago's news media who best exemplifies Dante's ideal of "being no timid friend to truth." This event is attended by many of Chicago's well-known print, radio, and television journalists. The scholarship recipient must attend the luncheon to receive the award personally.

Renewal:

Non-renewable. Students may reapply annually for consideration in the annual selection process.



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John Fischetti Scholarship Application 2026

Applicant is required to have at least 50% or more Italian ancestry and a resident of Illinois.

To apply for the scholarship, the application and the following items must be submitted:

1. Applicant must be enrolled or admitted into an accredited institution of higher education and submit a copy of his/her acceptance letter or proof of enrollment, and a resident of Illinois.
2. Applicant must provide high school and/or college transcripts.
3. Applicant must have a strong academic background (based on transcripts, awards, etc.).
4. Applicant must submit an essay (500 words or less) on any of the following topics:
 - What does being an Italian American mean to you?
 - How do you feel about the way Italian Americans are portrayed in movies and television?
 - What contributions have Italians (ancient or modern) made to the world?
 - What contributions have Italian Americans made to the United States?
5. Applicant must include a current photo of themselves.
6. Applicant is encouraged to send two letters of recommendation.
7. Applicant may include any published works (optional).
8. All application materials must be submitted electronically as **one single pdf file** to jcc@jccia.com between March 1, 2026 and the deadline date of April 24, 2026.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PREFERRED EMAIL: _____ **PHONE#:** _____

BIRTHPLACE: _____ **BIRTH DATE:** _____ **GENDER:** _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____ **OCCUPATION:** _____

MOTHER'S NAME & MAIDEN NAME: _____ **OCCUPATION:** _____

PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR ITALIAN ANCESTRY: _____

HIGH SCHOOL: _____ **HIGH SCHOOL G.P.A.:** _____



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ANTICIPATED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – MONTH/YEAR: _____

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL: _____ MAJOR: _____

ANTICIPATED GRADUATION YEAR: _____ UNDERGRADUATE G.P.A.: _____

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS (Indicate if high school or college): _____

LIST YOUR SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS/ETC:

LIST YOUR NON-SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS/ETC: _____

EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE JOHN FISCHETTI SCHOLARSHIP: _____

NOTE: PLEASE ATTACH TO THIS FORM:

- CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT (WHICHEVER IS APPLICABLE)
- COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE LETTER (IF APPLICABLE) OR COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS
- TWO RECOMMENDATION LETTERS (IF APPLICABLE)
- A CURRENT PHOTO OF YOURSELF
- YOUR 500 WORD ESSAY
- PUBLISHED WRITINGS (OPTIONAL)

Verification and Release I attest that the information I have provided is complete and accurate and I agree that the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans (JCCIA) may verify this information. I agree that the JCCIA may disclose information contained in this application. If the JCCIA awards a scholarship to me, I hereby authorize the organization, on a royalty-free basis, to include my likeness and story as part of its publicity.

Signature _____ Date: _____