

South Dakota Retailers Association | PO Box 638 | Pierre, SD 57501 | sdra.org | (605) 224.5050 | info@sdra.org

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please type or print your answers.
- **DEADLINE:** Completed application, references and grade transcripts must be emailed or mailed to the South Dakota Retailers Association by **April 15, 2026**; mailed applications must be postmarked by **April 15, 2026**.

NAME & CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of applicant _____

Permanent mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

(We will confirm receipt of your application via email)

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION

Approximately how many university or technical school credit hours will you have completed by September 1, 2026?

_____ Technical college/trade school/training institute _____ University/college

In the fall of 2026:

Name of school you plan to attend: _____

Location of school you plan to attend (city and state): _____

Your major field/s of study: _____

Number of credit hours you will be taking (approximate): _____

Anticipated month and year of graduation: _____

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

High school you attended _____

City _____ State _____

Graduated from high school or obtained high school equivalency certificate (GED): Year _____ State _____

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION INFORMATION

Provide names of post-secondary schools you are currently attending or have attended previously.

NAME OF SCHOOL	DATES ATTENDED (FROM - TO)	MAJOR
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

CAREER GOALS

Where (city or state) would you like to be located? _____

Why do you want to live and work in that city or state? _____

FAMILY

List occupation of your parents/guardians (i.e. teacher, farming, hardware store owner, bank teller, store clerk). For "place of employment", please provide the name of the company or agency.

1 Name of parent/guardian _____

Occupation _____ Place of employment _____

City _____ State _____

2 Name of parent/guardian _____

Occupation _____ Place of employment _____

City _____ State _____

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (A RESUME MAY BE SUBMITTED IN PLACE OF COMPLETING THIS SECTION)

Include full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal work. If job information doesn't fit in a box, you can continue information on the next line below it.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT <i>(Include name of business & city)</i>	EMPLOYMENT DATES <i>(from - to)</i>	YOUR POSITION OR JOB DUTIES
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

TELL US ABOUT YOUR GOALS (MAY BE SUBMITTED VIA YOUTUBE)

TYPE or PRINT on a separate sheet or sheets of paper. WORD LIMIT: 400 words per section.

YouTube: This part of the application may instead be submitted via YouTube. Time Limit: 5 minutes total

Submitting Via YouTube? Yes Please email the link to info@sdra.org.

1 **Goals:** Please tell us about your plans for the future, such as:

- Your career goals - be very specific about the type of business in which you are interested, and the position you want to hold.
- Why do you want to be in the field you have chosen?
- What persuaded you to choose this field of study?
- Why is a career in retail or business important to you?
- What skills do you possess that will help you reach your goals?
- What job experience do you have that will help you reach your goals?
- Where do you hope to be and what do you hope to be doing in 10 years?

2 **Personal Challenges:** What is the most difficult challenge or obstacle you have faced? How did you handle it?

3 **Accomplishments/Activities:** Please tell us about any special accomplishments in your personal, community or academic life, or involvement in school or community activities.

THIS SECTION IS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

If you are a high school student, you must answer “yes” on at least one of these questions to be eligible.

1. By September 1, 2026: will you have completed 24 university credits -or- 12 technical college credits?
(If yes, please provide a transcript showing the courses you have taken and credits earned) ___ Yes ___ No
2. By September 1, 2026: will you have completed ProStart Levels 1 and 2 (high school culinary arts program)?
___ Yes ___ No

5 STEPS TO TAKE WHEN APPLYING



1. **Fill out the application:** Please type or print legibly.
2. **Essay questions:** Type, print, or submit via YouTube and email the link to info@sdra.org (see page 2).
3. **Transcript:** Obtain a copy of your most recent grade transcript.
4. **References:** Obtain two letters of reference. At least one must be from a person who currently owns or manages a business (letters from parents do not qualify).
5. **Submit it:** Mail or email the completed application, transcript, essay questions, and letters of reference.

Email completed application: info@sdra.org OR mail completed application by April 15, 2026 to:
South Dakota Retailers Association, P.O. Box 638, Pierre, SD 57501
For more information, call 605.224.5050 or email info@sdra.org

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

In mid-June of 2026, all applicants will be notified by email or mail whether they have been selected as a scholarship recipient.

PAYMENT

Scholarships are paid directly to the school. If a recipient changes schools or majors, the South Dakota Retailers Association (SDRA) must be notified prior to funds being disbursed. SDRA will determine whether the applicant remains eligible for the scholarship.

BY SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION

The applicant certifies that they have answered all questions truthfully, and understands that the application and all accompanying materials may be confirmed by SDRA and will be used for the purpose of evaluation and selection by the Scholarship Committee.

? FAQs

Q: If I graduated from a South Dakota high school but I'm going to attend college or tech school in another state, am I eligible? **Answer: Yes**

Q: Do I have to be officially enrolled for the fall semester at the time I submit this application?
Answer: No

Q: Are high school seniors eligible?
Answer: High school students are eligible if they will meet one or more of the three criteria listed at the top of this page.

Q: Where will the check be mailed?
Answer: The check is mailed directly to the institute listed on your application.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

1. **Career in Retail:** Applicant **must** desire a career in a retail or retail-related field as an owner, manager or employee.
2. **Type of School:** Applicant must enroll in a retail or retail-related course of study at a qualifying accredited technical school, college, university, or certified professional training institute in the fall of 2026.
3. **Retail/Retail-Related Field of Study:** Examples of fields of study considered to be retail or retail-related include (but are not limited to): Accounting, Agribusiness (retail agribusiness), Apparel Merchandising, Auto Mechanics, Automotive Technology, Business Administration, Business Management, Collision Repair, Computer Science, Commercial Baking, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Diesel Mechanics, Electrical Maintenance, Entrepreneurial Studies, Gemology, Hotel/Restaurant Management, HVAC, Landscape Design, Pharmacy, Photography, Printing Industries, Sales/Marketing Management, and Tourism Industry Management (NOTE: this list is not all-inclusive.)
4. **South Dakota Education:** Applicant must meet one or more of these three criteria:
 - a. have graduated from a South Dakota high school OR
 - b. have earned a GED (or other high school equivalency) in South Dakota OR
 - c. plan to attend post-secondary school in South Dakota
5. **Credits/Full-Time Work Experience/or ProStart:** Applicant must meet one or more of these four criteria:
 - a. have earned 24 or more credits from a qualifying college or university by Sept. 1, 2026 OR
 - b. have earned 12 or more credits from a qualifying technical college, trade school or certified professional training institute by Sept. 1, 2026 OR
 - c. have successfully completed ProStart Levels 1 and 2 (high school culinary arts program) OR
 - d. non-traditional student who has full-time work experience
6. **Credit Hours:** Student **must** enroll in 12 or more credit hours of classes at a qualifying post-secondary school or online degree program for the fall of 2026. (Internships do not qualify.)
7. **Prior Recipients:** Previous recipients are eligible. A new application must be filled out for consideration.