



The Tile Contractors' Association of America's 2026 Architecture/Interior Design Scholarship for Professional Degree Candidates

General Information and Instructions for Applicants

THE PROGRAM

The Tile Contractors' Association of America (TCAA) is a national trade association representing ceramic tile and stone installation companies throughout the United States who are members of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. In 2001, TCAA established a merit scholarship program. TCAA will award a **\$5,000 scholarship** to a qualifying student pursuing an undergraduate or graduate level professional degree in Architecture or Interior Design.

APPLICATIONS

Application forms can be obtained via our website: <https://www.tcaainc.org/scholarships>

ELIGIBILITY FOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

Applicants must be a US citizen and, at the time of application, enrolled and working toward a professional degree in architecture and for the 2026/2027 academic year must be:

- In the third or fourth year of a five-year program that results in a BArch or equivalent;
- In the fourth or fifth year of a six-year program (4+2 or other combination) that results in a MArch or equivalent; OR
- In the first, second or third year of a three to four-year program which results in a MArch within the Architecture discipline. The majority of credit courses must be earned in a campus environment.

ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS

Applicants must be a US citizen and, at the time of application, enrolled in a CIDA-accredited university or college program, working toward a professional degree in Interior Design or Interior Architecture and for the 2026/2027 academic year must be:

- In the second or third year of a four-year program leading to a BS, BA, BID or BFA in Interior Design or Interior Architecture; OR
- In the first year of a two-year program OR the first or second year of a three-year program leading to a MA or MFA in Interior Design or Interior Architecture. The majority of credit courses must be earned in a campus environment.

REQUIREMENTS

The following is required from each applicant:

- Completed scholarship application (see below)
- Official transcript from academic institution from past **4** semesters
- Resume
- Essay response (500 words or less)
Personal statement (500 words or less)
- Two** letters of recommendation, submitted with completed rating chart (see below).

**ALL MATERIALS MUST BE INCLUDED IN WITH THE APPLICATION AND
SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN APRIL 7, 2026.**

AWARD

- One award will be presented each year in the amount of \$5,000.
- Scholarship award to be announced in July 2026. The winning applicant will be notified by email.
- Scholarship check must be issued in the name of the applicant and appropriate university/college. The award may not be used retroactively.



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General Information and Instructions for Applicants - Continued

DEADLINE APRIL 7, 2026

Applications and all accompanying information, including resume, official transcripts and letters of recommendation, can be submitted via instructions below:

- Compile documents in the order listed under "Requirements"
- *Complete application via Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/Mz1LgKiVAXWBh9BP8>*
- References that waive their right to view appraisal can email letters to info@tcaainc.org

SELECTION

TCAA has sole authority for granting the scholarship awards. TCAA members serving on the Scholarship Committee select the winners. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic performance, recommendations, and the personal statement. All decisions are final. Applications and attachments become the property of TCAA.



APPLICATION

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APPLICANT: Please type or print all sections of the application. Make sure your name and Student Identification Number issued by your school appears on all attachments. Use only the official scholarship application issued to you. Applicants must be US citizens. Please make a copy for your records before submitting.

PERSONAL DATA

University Student Identification Number _____ U.S. citizen: Yes No _____

Name _____

Permanent address Street City State Zip

Current address Street City State Zip

(Where results of scholarship can be sent)

Telephone (where you can be reached if additional information is needed) Email address _____

Place of Birth City State Country

ACADEMIC RECORD

List the academic institutions you have attended since high school in chronological order, the first being the most recent. An official transcript from each school listed, including the institution in which you are currently enrolled, is required. If your complete academic record is contained in a single transcript, it is not necessary to request the information from each institution.

1. Name of school Dates attended/degree _____

2. Name of school Dates attended/degree _____

3. Name of school Dates attended/degree _____

Institution you will attend Fall 2026 academic year. If different from where you are currently attending, please note.

Degree anticipated Anticipated graduation date _____

Type of degree program (check one)

Architecture

Five-year BArch Six-year MArch Three- to four-year MArch Five-year MArch

Interior Design/Interior Architecture

Four- to five-year BS, BA, BID or BFA Two- to three-year MA or MFA



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AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

List previous awards, financial aid and scholarships you have received as an architecture or interior design/interior architecture student.

Source of Award	Amount	Duration of award
Source of Award	Amount	Duration of award
Source of Award	Amount	Duration of award
Source of Award	Amount	Duration of award

TILE ESSAY QUESTION (to be completed in Google Forms submission box)

In 500 words or less,

How do you believe receiving the Tile Contractors' Association of America Architecture/Interior Design Scholarship may contribute to your personal and professional growth, and how will it inspire you to leverage the unique advantages of ceramic tile and natural stone (marble/granite) materials in your future design endeavors? Share your aspirations and explain how this scholarship will help you achieve your academic and career goals while promoting the use of ceramic tile as a sustainable and versatile design element. (see <https://whytile.com/> for more information)

PERSONAL STATEMENT (to be completed in Google Forms submission box)

Submit an essay (approx. 500 words) that clearly states your educational goals as they relate to your future professional career. Please include:

- Information about your interests and extracurricular activities, community work, work experiences and how they have affected or influenced your education.
- Your education goals.
- Identify the areas of study you intend to pursue to meet the goals.
- Clearly state your involvement in these specific areas.
- Explain how you intend to apply these interests to the architectural or interior design/interior architecture profession.

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE TILE CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (TCAA) ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN / INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE SCHOLARSHIP FOR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE CANDIDATES

Note to applicant: Two recommendation letters are required and are to be accompanied with the rating form below.

- One recommendation should be from a member of the architectural profession, or a related field.
- One recommendation should be from faculty a member.

This section to be completed by the applicant

Name of applicant _____ University attending _____

Name of recommender _____

- I waive my right to inspect this appraisal when completed and understand that it will remain confidential.
 I do not waive my right to review this appraisal.

TO THE RECOMMENDER

- ◆ The above named student is applying for the **Tile Contractors' Association of America (TCAA) Architecture / Interior Design Scholarship for Professional Degree Candidates.**
- ◆ Please provide a letter of recommendation, on your office or school letterhead, along with the rating form below giving a candid evaluation of the applicants past performance and promise for the future. The letter and rating form may be provided to the student for submission with their complete application package, or can be emailed directly to scholarships@tcaainc.org. The **deadline** for complete submissions is **APRIL 7, 2026**.

Please include the following points in your letter of recommendation:

- ◊ How long have you known the applicant and in what connection?
- ◊ Include additional comments about the applicant.
- ◊ Rate the applicant in comparison to his/her peers.

Under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act of 1974, a student has the right of access to records, including letters of reference. Unless the applicant has waived the right of access, they will be able to review your letter upon written request.

Scale:

0 – Unable to judge 1 – Poor 2 – Below average 3 – Average 4 - Above average 5 – Excellent 6 - Exceptional

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Intellectual capability							
General knowledge							
Analytical ability							
Oral expression							
Written expression							
Visual or graphic expression							
Originality and creativity							
Organizational skills							
Ability to work with others							
Follow-through/perseverance							
Self-confidence							
Emotional maturity							

Signature _____

Date _____