Chicago Engineers' Foundation Incentive Awards
Eligibility Qualifications and Frequently Asked Questions About Incentive Awards

Qualifications:
- Be a graduating high school senior who either lives OR goes to a high school in the city of Chicago at the time of application.
- Have acceptance to a four-year engineering program at an accredited university/college.
- Complete and submit an online application for consideration by the April 1st deadline.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is an Incentive Award the same as a scholarship?
Incentive Awards are similar to scholarships in that they are presented to students working towards undergraduate degrees. Students who are granted Incentive Awards will receive their award directly and award funds may be used for any qualified expenses related to a student's education. Consult a tax professional or the IRS website for more information about qualified educational expenses.

If I do not live in the city of Chicago or attend a high school in the city, can I still apply for an Incentive Award?
The service area for Chicago Engineers' Foundation awards is limited to graduating high school Seniors who live in Chicago OR attend a high school that is located in the city of Chicago. Applications cannot be considered from students who do not live or attend a high school within the Chicago city limits.

Do I have to be a Chicago Public Schools student to apply for an award?
Any graduating high school Senior attending a high school within the city of Chicago may complete an application. This includes students who attend public, private, charter, parochial, or homeschool programs that are in the city of Chicago.

Is the Incentive Award program merit-based or based on financial need?
The Incentive Award program is merit-based so any student that meets the basic qualifications and completes an application will be considered for an award.

How do I complete an application?
If a student meets the qualifications to apply for an award, they may visit the Chicago Engineers' Foundation Award portal. An application is completed online via the portal, and all required documentation must be submitted via the portal.

Do I have to create an account to fill out an award application?
Yes, the application portal (hosted by AwardSpring) requires applicants to create their own account. Students select their preferred password to create their free account. Once an account is created, students can sign in and out of their account as much as they like during the award cycle (January 1st through April 1st). All information provided in a student's application is confidential.

How long does it take to complete an application and do I have to finish it all at one time?
On average, it will take about an hour to complete an Incentive Award application. From January 1st through April 1st, a student may sign in and out of their application account as much as they prefer. All information a student puts into their application is automatically saved.

Do I have to attend a university in Chicago to apply for an Incentive Award?
No, a student may be planning to attend any 4-year, accredited undergraduate engineering program in the country when completed an award application.

I have acceptance letters from many university engineering programs and I have not made my final decision on where I want to go. Can I still apply for an Incentive Award?
Yes, proof of an acceptance is required to complete an application. Please upload one of your acceptance letters to your application. If you are selected as a finalist, staff will follow up with you via email in May to confirm your enrollment at a 4-year undergraduate engineering program. It is fine if your university program has changed since the time of your application, as long as the university program still meets the criteria to be considered for an Incentive Award.

What types of engineering majors are considered for Incentive Awards?
Any 4-year undergraduate engineering major can be considered for an award.

I plan to minor in engineering and major in another subject like business or medicine. Can I apply for an award as an engineering minor?
Students must be enrolled in a 4-year program as an engineering major to be considered for an award.

I'm majoring in Computer Science, can I apply for an award?
As long as a computer science major falls under the School of Engineering at your preferred university, you are eligible to complete an application. If you are unsure if your computer science major qualifies, email us at awards@chicagoengineersfoundation.org.

I will be doing a pre-engineering program within a 4-year university. Does that qualify as an engineering major for this award?
Students enrolling in pre-engineering programs are not currently eligible to apply for an Incentive Award.

I am going to a community college before transferring to a 4-year university. Am I eligible to apply as a graduating high school senior?
Students enrolling in a community college program are not currently eligible to apply for an Incentive Award.

Can I apply if I am planning to enroll in a 3-2 Dual Degree program?
Students enrolling in dual degree programs are not currently eligible to apply for an Incentive Award.

The mission of the Chicago Engineers' Foundation is to encourage and empower young people to become the next generation of engineers through scholarship opportunities, outreach to educational institutions, and promoting interest in engineering careers.