



FAQs: Educational Grants- Educational Ascent



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Contact Details

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Educational Ascent Grant

What is an Educational Ascent Grant?

An Educational Ascent Grant is a financial scholarship of up to **US\$2,500** for Vail Resorts employees who are pursuing a degree or certificate program. Examples include: vocational degree programs, bachelors or specialized degrees (i.e., nursing degrees), masters degrees, professional degrees (law or medical degrees), and EMT certificates.

While the grant is not automatically renewable, applicants may apply at multiple deadlines. There are three application deadlines per calendar year.

What is covered by an Educational Ascent Grant?

The maximum award for an Educational Ascent Grant is US\$2,500 to cover or support with the costs of tuition, fees, books, and course materials. If your charges are less than US\$2,500, the grant will cover the exact charges and no more.

Who is eligible for an Educational Ascent Grant?

Educational Ascent Grants are open only to U.S. Vail Resorts employees with full-time, part-time, or SIS (*Seasonal Inactive Status*) status, whose annual household income is at or below:

- Single-person household: **US\$105,420** (refer to the below **Income Qualifications** for households with more than one individual).
- Income and employment classification will be verified through Vail Resorts Human Resources.

As an employee based in Canada or Australia, do I qualify for an Educational Ascent Grant?

No. The Educational Ascent Grant is only offered to employees based in the United States.

Why is the Educational Ascent Grant not offered in Canada?

The Canadian Revenue Agency takes the position that scholarships paid by employers to employees are taxable employment benefits that must be offered to all employees and that the training or education must benefit the employer. This is in direct contradiction to the Internal Revenue Service's laws governing the Foundation's U.S. charity status, where employee education grants should not benefit the employer.

Where can I apply?

The application is available online at <https://www.vailresorts.com/responsibility/employee-foundation/> via both desktop and mobile. You must answer all questions and include all required documentation. *The application is only available at this link for the duration of each cycle.*

What are the application deadlines?

The Upcoming 2026 Educational Ascent Deadlines are (subject to change):

- March 2, 2026
- June 8, 2026
- October 5, 2026

What is required as part of the application process?

If the financial requirement is met, the committee will consider the following elements to determine grant awards:

1. **5 Short-Answer Questions** – 70% of total application score
 - Emphasizing your community involvement and how the course/program will help you personally and professionally.
2. **Degree/Curriculum Checklist*** – this could be one of the following:
 - Outline of Program Requirements or a Course Catalog
 - Official Course Syllabus

* If your course does not have a degree/curriculum checklist, please provide a document that explains how the course you are taking leads to the degree/certificate that you are pursuing.
3. **A Letter of Recommendation** – 15% of total application score
Please provide a letter of recommendation from a professional or academic reference. Letters of recommendation from family members or close friends will not be accepted.
4. **Overall Quality of Application** – 15% of total application score
Applications graded based on completion, structure, correct spelling and correct use of grammar.

***ALL DOCUMENTATION MUST BE SUBMITTED AS A .PDF DOCUMENT.**

Can I apply for an Educational Ascent grant if I am not yet enrolled?

Yes, but you must have at least applied to your educational degree or certificate program prior to applying for an Educational Ascent grant.

Can I apply for multiple cycles?

Yes. You can apply for each application cycle, regardless of if you have received a grant in the past.

Can I apply at a second cycle, if I have already received a grant?

Yes. **You must complete a new application for each cycle.** We recommend refreshing your essay and letters of recommendation.

Will everyone who applies and is qualified receive an Educational Ascent Grant?

No, the process is competitive. Based on the rules of the Internal Revenue Service, only 10% of those who apply and are eligible, may receive grants.

The only exception to the 10% rule are grants to those who pursue a GED/HSE program or who participate in an ESL program.


Who is responsible for approving grant applications?

The EpicPromise Employee Foundation Board of Directors has appointed an Educational Grants Committee. This committee is comprised of non-executive Vail Resorts employees from across the Company that volunteer their time to review applications and determine all awardees. Only full and completed applications are considered.

How are grants fulfilled?

All grant checks are **sent directly to the student's academic institution** (i.e. the institution's bursar's office). Grant checks will NOT be sent directly to employees!

Income Qualifications Chart:

		
2026 INCOME QUALIFICATIONS		
Number of Persons in Household	USD	CAD
1	\$111,720	\$152,449
2	\$151,480	\$206,705
3	\$191,240	\$260,960
4	\$231,000	\$315,215
5	\$270,760	\$369,470
6	\$310,520	\$423,726
7	\$350,280	\$477,981
8	\$390,040	\$532,236

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About the EpicPromise Employee Foundation

The EpicPromise Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit funded by Vail Resorts, company employees, and the community. We provide grants for unplanned emergencies and educational scholarships to Vail Resorts employees and their families.