

2022 National CCAA First-Year Scholarship Recipients

The National CCAA First-Year Scholarship is awarded to college-bound high school seniors from various geographic regions who will attend one of the National CCAA member institutions in the fall. For Fall 2022, the National CCAA awarded 16 one-time \$1,000 awards. This year's scholarship recipients hail from across the United States, Canada, and Switzerland.

We asked each scholarship winner a few questions to learn more about them. Here are their responses to those questions:



Name: Amanda Caldwell

School: Seattle University

Hometown: Little Egg Harbor, NJ

Major: Criminal Justice

A 2022 graduate of Pinelands Regional High School in Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey, Amanda will attend Seattle University. She shared that she ultimately chose Seattle University "because I've wanted to live in Seattle for so long!"

Amanda will pursue a Criminal Justice major at Seattle University. After graduation, she hopes to "either be in the FBI, a police officer, or forensic scientist."

We asked Amanda:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about getting to meet new people.

What are your hobbies?

I love to go hiking, hang out with friends, do puzzles, and read.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with school seniors and/or their parents?

Do the college application process early! Get it done so you don't have to worry about it.



Name: Alyssa Carozza

School: Duquesne University

Hometown: South Park, PA

Major: Pharmacy

A 2022 graduate of South Park High School in South Park, Pennsylvania, Alyssa will attend Duquesne University. Many factors played a part in her decision to enroll. She shared, "I chose to attend Duquesne University because it is a mid-sized campus, they have a well known pharmacy program, and the class sizes are on the smaller side, which will help me build a better relationship with students and professors."

As a student at Duquesne University, Alyssa will major in Pharmacy with plans to pursue a career as a pharmacist specializing in oncology.

We asked Alyssa:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about developing new friendships, being closer to the city, and the overall college experience.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year?

As cliché as it sounds, high school goes by fast, so enjoy your last year and don't wish it away. It'll be over before you know it, so take every opportunity to make new memories that you can take with you into your future.

We know the past few years of your high school career have been different than what you imagined they would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

I was able to develop better time management skills. Especially during the time when school was online, I had to join zoom calls, stay on task, meet deadlines, and not fall behind, even though it might have seemed very tempting to do.

What is one fun fact about you?

I enjoy running for fun.



Name: Andrew Roland
School: University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Tonawanda, NY
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Andrew, a 2022 graduate of Kenmore East High School in Tonawanda, New York, will attend University of Notre Dame. He shared that he chose to enroll at Notre Dame because "Notre Dame has been my dream college ever since I was a little kid. I love their tradition and culture that they've created over the years that makes being there feel like home. I know that I won't only receive an amazing education here, but I'll also be able to grow spiritually."

At Notre Dame, Andrew will major in Mechanical Engineering, with future plans of using his degree "to get a job that will bring good to this world."

We asked Andrew:

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy getting active and playing sports. My main sport in high school was track and I hope to continue that in college by joining their running club. I also like to mess around with technology and see what I can do with it when I'm bored.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with seniors or their parents?

Take your college essay seriously. We need to remember that some college admissions officers look at thousands of applications. At some point, outstanding grades and extracurriculars might not be what these colleges are looking at in a student. The only way that colleges and their admissions officers really get to see your personality shine over other applicants is through your essays. This is where you need to put an impression and then make them remember you. There's several tips and tricks to that, but my biggest advice would be to be unique!

We know the past few years of your high school career have been different than what you imagined they would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

I developed a sense of work ethic through these troubling times. COVID gave us the opportunity to practically do school in bed. That's a very tempting opportunity! But it also made school a much more independent task. We didn't have teachers at our side helping us 24/7 anymore. Because of this, I needed to develop a work ethic that could replace that.

What is one fun fact about you?

I learned how to do a back flip in the middle of a nature preserve



Name: Eduarda Ferreira Herdy

School: Emmanuel College

Hometown: Everett, MA

Major: Biology: Health Sciences

Eduarda, a 2022 graduate of Everett High School in Everett, Massachusetts, will attend Emmanuel College. She shared that multiple factors influenced her decision to enroll.

"I choose Emmanuel because I liked the location and how it was close to home. And also for the many opportunities that the school offers."

At Emmanuel College, Eduarda will major in Biology: Health Sciences, and shared that she has future plans of becoming a physician assistant

We asked Eduarda:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited to meet new people, experience new things, and get out of my comfort zone.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class was Psychology.

We know the past few years of your high school career have been different than what you imagined they would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

I was able to be closer to my family and have more quality time together.

What is one fun fact about you?

I lived in Brazil most of my life.



Name: Elizabeth Dowling
School: Providence College
Hometown: Douglas, MA
Major: Biology

A 2022 graduate of Whitinsville Christian School in Massachusetts, Elizabeth will attend Providence College. She shared that multiple factors played a part in her decision to enroll at Providence College, including "their excellent academics and welcoming campus community."

As a student at Providence College, Elizabeth will major in Biology which will help her pursue a career in the medical field as a physician assistant after graduation.

We asked Elizabeth:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I'm most excited to meet new people.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class was kinesiology because we did lots of fun labs.

What advice would you share with high school seniors as they begin their senior year?

Enjoy senior year and make memories with your class!

What is one fun fact about you?

I have an identical twin sister.



Name: Erin Buglewicz

School: Creighton University

Hometown: Omaha, NE

Major: Psychology

A 2022 graduate of Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Omaha, Nebraska, Erin will attend Creighton University. Erin shared that she decided to enroll at Creighton "because it had a very welcoming community and a great reputation for its law program. Plus, it was close to home and shared my Catholic values."

At Creighton, Erin will major in Psychology on a pre-law track. After graduation, she plans to attend law school and become an attorney.

We asked Erin:

What are your hobbies?

Reading, writing, and knitting.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with seniors or their parents?

Be proactive and don't hesitate to ask questions!

We know the past few years of your high school career have been different than what you imagined they would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

I recognized that community is an extremely integral part of life, and I started to value time spent with family and friends more.

What is one fun fact about you?

I never missed a single day of high school!



Name: Gabriel Paredes
School: St. John's University
Hometown: Atlixco, Mexico
Major: Cyber Security Systems

A 2022 graduate of Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School in Queens, New York, Gabriel will attend St. John's University. He says he ultimately chose St. John's "for its amazing facilities and Cyber Security major."

At St. John's University, Gabriel will major in Cyber Security Systems so that he can fulfill his plans to "gain my master's degree and get a career within cyber security."

We asked Gabriel:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I'm excited to learn about my major and to explore the different opportunities this school may provide to me.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year?

Take it easy! Keep up with your work, but don't stress yourself as this is the time for you to be preparing yourself for college and the next chapter of your life.

We know the past few years of your high school career have been different than what you imagined they would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

I learned more about what I wanted to do as my career and since there was so much free time available during the pandemic, I learned skills that may be useful for what I want to do in the future.

What is one fun fact about you?

I can sing!



Name: Gabriela Clinton

School: University of St. Thomas (TX)

Hometown: Katy, TX

Major: English or Business

A 2022 graduate of St. Agnes Academy in Houston, Texas, Gabriela will attend University of St. Thomas (TX). Many factors played a part in her decision to enroll. "I wanted to go to a great Catholic school near home, and many people who have gone to UST said they loved it," she shared.

As a student at UST, Gabriela plans to major in English or Business and after graduation, plans "to go to graduate school and find a job I love."

We asked Gabriela:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I'm excited for meeting a community that shares in my faith and pushes me to improve academically and spiritually.

What are your hobbies?

I love writing short stories, creating and editing memorable videos with my friends, reading novels, and biking.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with seniors or their parents?

Start searching early, stay on top of deadlines, and talk to your college counselors and other sources frequently about scholarships and essays. Also, don't stress too much because one way or another you'll find the right college for you.



Name: Jane Miller

School: University of Notre Dame

Hometown: Calgary, Canada

Major: English or Philosophy

A 2022 graduate of Webber Academy in Calgary, Canada, Jane will attend University of Notre Dame. She shared that multiple factors played a part in her decision to enroll at Notre Dame, including the fact that they offer "excellent academics, a strong school community, and a great religious grounding."

As a student at Notre Dame, Jane will major in English or Philosophy with plans to pursue a career that involves writing.

We asked Jane:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

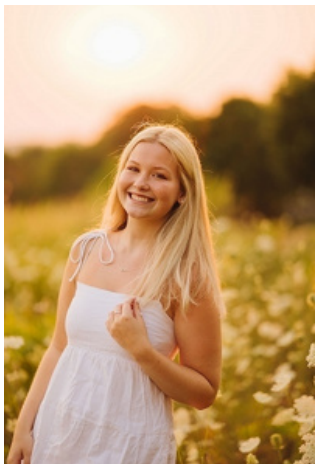
I am excited to attend football games and to meet new people.

We know the past few years of your high school career have been different than what you imagined they would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

Through the experience of lockdown, I and many of my classmates were able to realize how valuable it is to be involved in the school community during our high school years. I definitely became more excited about school events and about spending time with others following the Covid-19 pandemic.

What is one fun fact about you?

I love to cook and share my recipes online



Name: Kaylee Axeen

School: Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Hometown: Bloomington, MN

Major: Health Humanities

A 2022 graduate of Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Minnesota, Kaylee will attend Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Many factors influenced her decision to enroll at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, including the fact that the campus is close to home.

Kaylee will major in Health Humanities at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and is still figuring out her future plans.

We asked Kaylee:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about meeting new people!

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year?

Make memories! It is the best year of high school!

We know the last year and a half of your high school career has been different than what you imagined it would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

I enjoyed spending more time with friends and family.



Name: Paul Ruskoski
School: Lewis University
Hometown: Tulsa, OK
Major: Aviation Flight Technology

Paul, a 2022 graduate of Bishop Kelly High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma, will attend Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. He shared that he chose to attend Lewis so that he can continue his lacrosse career by playing on the Lewis Men's Lacrosse Team.

At Lewis, Paul will pursue an Aviation Flight Technology major in order to achieve his plan "to become a commercial pilot and fly for an international airlines company."

We asked Paul:

What are your hobbies?

Stringing lacrosse heads and playing soccer.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with seniors or their parents?

Start early! If you can, visit the college and meet current students.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin senior year?

Have fun because your senior year passes fast! Don't slack on your classes because your grades still matter.

What is one fun fact about you?

I love geography and maps.



Name: Ruth Havey

School: DePaul University

Hometown: Wheat Ridge, CO

Major: Marketing and Psychology

Minor: Spanish

Ruth, a 2022 graduate of Holy Family High School in Broomfield, Colorado, will attend DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. She shared that the location of campus is one of the reasons that led her to choose DePaul.

"I chose to attend DePaul University because of the many opportunities it will provide me in the city of Chicago."

At DePaul Ruth will double major in Marketing and Psychology and minor in Spanish.

We asked Ruth:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited to be a part of the Catholic Living and Learning Community at DePaul University.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with seniors or their parents?

It is important to communicate with one another during the entirety of this process because it is comforting for both parties when they recognize that they are in this together.

We know the past few years of your high school career have been different than what you imagined they would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

One positive thing that came from such a chaotic high school experience is that I have a lot more appreciation for the simpler aspects of my community since I had to isolate from them for so long.

What is one fun fact about you?

I am the oldest of five children.



Name: Sam Zaber

School: John Carroll University

Hometown: Avon Lake, OH

Major: Pre-Law

A 2022 graduate of Avon Lake High School in Avon Lake, Ohio, Sam will attend John Carroll University. Pursuing Catholic higher education was important to him, and he shared that one reason he chose to attend John Carroll is "because there is an element of my faith embedded in the school."

As a student at John Carroll, Sam will pursue a Pre-Law major with future plans to "potentially obtain a post graduate degree."

We asked Sam:

What are your hobbies?

Lacrosse, fishing, and hanging out with friends.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with seniors or their parents?

Take it one day at a time and don't get overwhelmed.

What is one fun fact about you?

I am a second degree black belt.



Name: Sarah Hippenmeyer
School: Santa Clara University
Hometown: Oberwil-Lieli, Switzerland
Major: Communications

A 2022 graduate of Zurich International School in Switzerland, Sarah will attend Santa Clara University. Multiple factors influenced Olivia's decision to enroll, including the SCU community and academic choices that are offered.

"I enjoy the smaller university atmosphere and the ability to feel part of a community at the university. I also have heard positive things about the business school at SCU and although am majoring in a different subject, would like to see the possibilities of transferring over to a business degree. I've also heard several positive experiences other students, parents and university counselors have shared at SCU," she shared.

At Santa Clara University, Sarah will pursue a major in Communications. She shared that her future career plans are "to find a career in either journalism or working in a social media, marketing position."

We asked Sarah:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I most excited for the new experience of living in another country, quite far from home, delving into a major I'm passionate and excited to learn about. I'm also excited to feel part of a community in which faith, diversity, and togetherness is a top priority.

What advice would you share with with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Start as early as you can with the process, and start writing application essays as soon as you can.

What is one fun fact about you?

I collect piggy banks.



Name: Simon Sharples
School: Seattle University
Hometown: Boise, ID
Major: Finance

A 2022 graduate of Sage International School in Boise, Idaho, Simon will attend Seattle University. Simon shared that he chose Seattle University because it "had many attractive qualities, specifically the opportunities offered to business school students at the school."

As a student at Seattle University, Simon will major in Finance in order to achieve his future goal to 'obtain a front office ultra high net worth clientele facing position at a private bank.'

We asked Simon:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

Being able to really hone in on what I am passionate about and gaining new experiences while gaining as much knowledge as possible!

What are your hobbies?

I like doing quite a few things, but my one true hobby lies in cars; specifically exotic cars and driving them.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year?

Have fun! It is an inevitably stressful time but if you live in the moment and enjoy the company of your friends and family everything will be alright. There are a lot of people that will tell you it is ok to not know what you want to do and to an extent this is true, however understanding what you want out of life as soon as possible will help you establish direction and will get you to your end goal quicker. Surround yourself with the right people and focus on what you want.

What is one fun fact about you?

I am great at networking and talking to people.



Name: Zuzia Wheeler
School: Creighton University
Hometown: West Des Moines, IA
Major: Nursing

A 2022 graduate of Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, Zuzia will attend Creighton University. Zuzia shared that many factors went into her decision to enroll.

"I fell in love with the nursing program and all of its rave reviews from friends and past students, and when I discovered their curriculum and core values were faith-based I knew it would be the school for me."

At Creighton, Zuzia will major in Nursing and shared that "after I graduate with my BSN, I hope to gain some experience in the nursing field, and then I will look into furthering my education and becoming a Nurse Practitioner or a Midwife."

We asked Zuzia:

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

The faith opportunities all around campus!

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year?

Enjoy your senior year and really take in those small moments. Even though everyone says it flies by, you don't realize how fast it actually does. It will be over in a blink.

We know the past few years of your high school career have been different than what you imagined they would be; what is one positive thing that came out of the experience?

I was able to get really close with the friends I knew would be around for the rest of my life. I really was able to solidify those relationships and nurture them.

What is one fun fact about you?

I own my own baking business!