

In working to advance our mission to provide radical opportunity in the sport of gymnastics, the NAIGC is pleased to announce our new **Underrepresented Athlete Scholarship (UAS)**! The UAS aims to reduce the barriers for athletes who are underrepresented in the sport to attend college and participate in gymnastics. Any incoming or current undergraduate student who identifies as from a racial/ethnic group that is underrepresented in four year colleges/universities, is eligible to apply. This includes, but is not limited to Black/African American, Native American/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, and/or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students. One athlete will be awarded \$2,000 towards their tuition. Please visit our <https://naigc.org/scholarships/> to apply and reach out to scholarships@naigc.org with any questions.

FAQ

Who is eligible to apply?

Any incoming or current undergraduate student who identifies as from a racial/ethnic group that is underrepresented in four year colleges/universities, is eligible to apply. This includes Black/African American, Native American/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, and/or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students. Priority will be given to incoming first year undergraduate students. In addition, applicants must have identified an NAIGC affiliated club they intend to join.

How did the NAIGC determine who would be eligible?

There is few data on participation in gymnastics by race/ethnicity. In the absence of this information, and given that this is a tuition scholarship, we decided to determine eligibility based on representation in four year colleges/universities. The NAIGC is currently undertaking efforts to gather demographic information from our membership and evaluate gaps in representation specifically within our own community.

How will candidates be evaluated?

Candidates will be evaluated based on the quality of their application. Selection criteria include: passion for gymnastics, interest in advancing equity in gymnastics and the NAIGC, and any additional goals or challenges. In addition, candidates are asked to have one recommender who is familiar with their involvement in gymnastics complete the recommendation form. The application and recommendation can be accessed at <https://naigc.org/scholarships/>.

Is this a need based scholarship?

No, however, candidates who face financial barriers to their participation in the sport are encouraged to describe this in their application.

Why did the NAIGC develop this scholarship?

Racism in the sport of gymnastics has long been perpetuated by coaches, athletes, exclusionary policies, and a lack of representation. As many elite, NCAA, and Junior Olympic athletes have publicly shared their experiences with racism in the sport, there is no doubt that our current and potential members have also experienced racism in the gymnastics community and have faced barriers to their participation in the sport and higher education. One of the core values of the NAIGC is to embrace radical opportunity and cultivate an inclusive environment, and we are long overdue to center racial equity in this effort. Thus, though a scholarship is by no means a fix-all, the Underrepresented Athlete scholarship was developed as a step towards better aligning NAIGC initiatives with our values. We hope that the scholarship will reduce barriers for students to participate in the sport of gymnastics and attend college.