

Julio Mata Family Scholarship Criteria - 2026

Description of Award:

A \$50,000 (\$12,500 for 4 years) annual scholarship will be given to one graduating high school student, one male or one female. If the student still has work to complete their degree, and there are still funds left from the award, those funds can be used for the fifth year of school.

Award Criteria:

- Per donor's instructions, the students' father must be of **paternal** Mexican heritage and surname, following the **paternal** line back to Mexico.
- The students must be legal residents of the United States.
- The students must have a positive attitude towards education and a minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average.
- A high-Grade Point Average is of primary importance.
- The students must reside within the Gilroy Unified School District boundaries and attend any high school in Gilroy.
- This award is for tuition, housing, meals, and educational expenses included in the cost of attending an educational institution. We encourage its use for nontaxable purposes as specified in the Revenue Act of 1986, which includes paying for tuition, books, fees, and/or equipment needed for course work.

Note:

- If a student registers at a college or university seeking a bachelor's degree, the student's tuition, fees, housing, meals, and educational materials would be paid for up to \$12,500 per year, and the award will be renewed on an annual basis. This would be renewed for a maximum of \$50,000 per student.
- If a student registers at a junior college or community college, the student's tuition, fees, housing (if applicable), meals, and educational materials would be paid until graduation up to \$12,500 per year. If the student continues on to a college or university seeking a bachelor's degree, the student will receive \$12,500 per year until \$50,000 is reached.
- If a student registers at a trade school, the student's tuition, fees, housing (if applicable), meals, and educational materials would be paid for up to \$12,500 a year for up to four years to attain a degree.
- If a student needs one or two extra semesters (maximum one year) to complete their degree, any part of the \$50,000 maximum amount unused can be used for the extra semester(s).
- Whether a student is at a college, university, a junior community college, or a trade school, and the student drops below a 3.0 GPA at the end of a school year, the scholarship is not renewable and ceases further awards.
- The student must provide a copy of their official student transcript to the Gilroy Foundation annually to show proof of their current GPA.

Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Completed online GUSD Common Scholarship Application.
2. Three letters of recommendation: two letters from a staff member-teacher, ACs, Aps, and one letter from a community service supervisor (non-school staff member nor relative).
3. A copy of the applicant's unofficial high school transcript.

Application Deadline: The application is due by Friday, March 6, 2026

Selection of winners to be made by Gilroy Foundation Scholarship Selection Committees. Gilroy Foundation will notify the winning students in May. The scholarship must be redeemed by December 11, 2026, or be forfeited.

Email any questions to scholarships@gilroyfoundation.org
Scholarship administered by: Gilroy Foundation
P.O. Box 774, Gilroy, California 95020, 408.842.3727, gilroyfoundation.org