

The Asher Chavers Foundation Scholarship

The Asher Chavers Foundation Scholarship \$1000 awarded to a graduating senior attending Southeastern Louisiana University who has been diagnosed with Level 1 autism and is seeking financial assistance to pursue higher education at Southeastern Louisiana University. This scholarship honors the memory of Asher Chavers by supporting neurodivergent students as they work toward their academic goals and future success.

The Asher Chavers Foundation was created in 2025 in memory of Asher Chavers. Asher was a student at Southeastern Louisiana University majoring in Biology. Asher loved all animals, especially birds, and had a witty sense of humor. He struggled to make sense of the world due to his autism. He loved all people and had a compassionate heart. He would be honored to know his legacy is helping others.

The recipient will be chosen by the Asher Chavers Foundation Board. The board will evaluate each applicant using the eligibility criteria. Selection will be made without regard to sex, race, color, or creed. If the recipient chooses to not attend SLU, the scholarship will be forfeited and another recipient will be chosen from the previous selection and next applicant.

Level 1 autism is defined as the following: "Level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder, officially classified as "Requiring Support," is the clinical diagnosis for individuals who have noticeable social communication challenges and restricted or repetitive behaviors, but can mostly function independently when provided with minimal assistance."

Scholarship Eligibility & Documentation Requirements

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants for the Asher Chavers Foundation Scholarship must meet the following requirements:

- Be a graduating high school senior or accepted or enrolled student accepted to Southeastern Louisiana University
- Have a documented diagnosis of Level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Demonstrate academic effort, personal determination, and a commitment to continued education
- Submit a completed scholarship application packet by the stated deadline
- Maintain a GPA of 2.5; Recipient will submit their Fall college transcript to receive final half of scholarship in January
- Application window is March 1 - March 31

- Application recipient will be announced May 1st

Award Information

- The scholarship will be awarded in two parts: June and January
- For purposes of allocation, this scholarship will be used for the purpose of tuition assistance at Southeastern Louisiana University
- The scholarship will be formally announced and presented at an announced time where the recipient will be present. A picture will be taken to post on social media and the website that includes a short bio of the recipient
- \$1000 award will be collected annually through donations and events

Documentation of Level 1 Autism Diagnosis

To confirm eligibility for this scholarship, applicants must provide verification of a level 1 autism diagnosis. The Foundation is committed to respecting applicant privacy and minimizing the burden of documentation.

Applicants may submit one (1) of the following forms of verification:

- A current or previous Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- A 504 Plan or IEP issued by a school

As well as the following information:

- A brief letter or statement from a:
 - Licensed healthcare provider
 - School counselor
 - Special education teacher
 - Case manager or school administrator

Important Guidelines:

- Documentation must confirm the presence of a level 1 autism diagnosis but should not include detailed medical history, treatment information, or unrelated personal data
- A full medical record or detailed doctor's report is not required
- If submitting a letter from a doctor, it only needs to verify the diagnosis and may be as brief as a few sentences

Privacy & Confidentiality

The Asher Chavers Foundation respects the sensitive nature of disability-related information and is committed to protecting applicant privacy.

- All documentation will be used solely for eligibility determination
- Materials will be reviewed only by authorized scholarship selection personnel
- Documentation will be stored securely and will not be shared with third parties
- All sensitive records will be permanently deleted or destroyed after the scholarship selection process is complete

