



DEPARTMENT OF  
CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT  
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

January 22, 2025

Dear Student,

Have you been a leader during your time at St. Cloud State University? Since 1988, the St. Cloud State University Excellence in Leadership Award has recognized students for outstanding contributions to the university and community. We are pleased to announce the opening of applications for the 2025 St. Cloud State University Excellence in Leadership Award! You are eligible to apply for this award based on your GPA and number of earned credits. This award recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to the university and community and challenges you to reflect on your leadership and growth experiences while at St. Cloud State.

### **Excellence in Leadership Award Application Process:**

- 1) **To be considered for this award, you must submit the 2025 Excellence in Leadership Award Application:** Please see the chart below for what a complete application includes. The application can be accessed electronically through this link:
  - o **The application must be completed using this [online form](#)**
- 2) **In addition to your application, a SCSU faculty, staff, or community member supervisor must complete a Reference Essay Form to support your application.** When completing your application, you will type the name and email address of the person who will submit a reference for you. Your reference will be sent a message prompting them to complete an online reference essay form. **Please contact your reference as soon as possible to give them plenty of time to complete the reference.** Your reference will not be notified until you successfully submit your application. Please also ensure the spelling of the email address is correct or the form reference cannot be sent.

**The deadline for applications and references is February 12, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**

**An application will not be considered unless both the student application and reference portions are fully complete and submitted by the deadline.**

All applicants will be notified of their status the week of March 12, 2025. Students who score highest on all judging criteria will be awarded the SCSU Excellence in Leadership Award at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence in Leadership Banquet on Sunday, April 13, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Campus Involvement at 320-308-2205 or e-mail [mollyann.mccann@gmail.com](mailto:mollyann.mccann@gmail.com)

### **Eligibility Criteria**

You must have student status during the current academic year. Current students who meet the below-listed requirements, as well as Fall 2024 graduates, are eligible to apply.

Previous winners of the Excellence in Leadership award are not eligible to apply.

Please review the following criteria:

Undergraduate Student Eligibility	Graduate Student Eligibility
<p>To be eligible for this award, you must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a <b>2.5</b> cumulative GPA or higher at the undergraduate level;</li> <li>• Have earned <b>90</b> semester credits (minimum of 36 credits earned at SCSU) at time of application.</li> <li>• Currently enrolled credits do not count.</li> </ul>	<p>To be eligible for this award, you must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a <b>3.5</b> cumulative GPA or higher at the graduate level;</li> <li>• Have earned <b>18</b> semester graduate credits (minimum of 18 graduate credits earned at SCSU) at time of application.</li> <li>• Currently enrolled credits do not count.</li> </ul>

## A COMPLETE ONLINE APPLICATION WILL INCLUDE:

The application process allows you to reflect on your growth and development as a leader while at St. Cloud State University. Therefore, please demonstrate evidence of leadership as a St. Cloud State student (on-campus and/or in the community). An application will be considered complete for review if it has the following:

<b>Application Item</b>		<b>How this is evaluated in judging process</b>
✓	<b>Application</b>	Complete and submit an online application
✓	<b>Reflective Essay</b>	<p>Your reflective essay should be a minimum of 700 words. Content will be evaluated for depth and breadth of impact as well as clarity of expression.</p> <p><b>Essay Prompt:</b> Describe specific examples of your personal growth and development through your leadership experiences at SCSU as they relate to Our Husky Compact visit: <a href="http://www.stcloudstate.edu/ourhuskycompact/">www.stcloudstate.edu/ourhuskycompact/</a> What key leadership skills have you developed during your time at SCSU? Describe how these skills have made you effective as a leader. How will you use what you have gained through your leadership experiences in future endeavors, personal or professional? (Your response should be 700 words min - 900 words max)</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depth of response to the questions asked.</li> <li>• Quality of written response.</li> <li>• Remember, this is your best work! A well-written response will be free of spelling errors and will be grammatically correct, well-organized, and easy to read and understand.</li> </ul>

✓	<b>Impactful Experiences, Campus Activities, and Volunteer Service</b>	<p>You will have the opportunity to list and describe <b>up to 5</b> campus and community leadership and/or service experiences.</p> <p><b>Experiences Prompt:</b> Please describe how each involvement experience has influenced your development while at SCSU, including but not limited to student organization involvement, long-term community engagement and service, paraprofessional peer leadership (such as a Community Advisor position or campus internship), other leadership roles, campus employment, campus committee membership, or special life and/or family circumstances. You may include up to 5 examples. Limit your responses to 200 words per example.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>List only achievements undertaken while at SCSU.</b></li> <li>• For the awards committee to fully appreciate your involvement, spell out all acronyms and briefly describe your experiences. Do not assume the readers are familiar with your organization, involvement, awards, and recognition.</li> <li>• Judges will look for evidence of progressive responsibility.</li> <li>• You will not be scored based on the quantity of your involvement, but on your ability to articulate the impact of your involvement: How did you grow, learn, or develop? How did you contribute to the growth, learning, or development of others? How did the community benefit from your involvement?</li> </ul>
✓	<b>Honors, Awards, and Scholarships</b>	List of relevant Honors, Awards, and Scholarships you have received that reflect your contributions and achievements during your time at SCSU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significance of honors, awards, and/or scholarships</li> </ul>
✓	<b>Reference Essay Completed by a SCSU Faculty, Staff, or Community Supervisor</b>	<p>One reference essay from an SCSU faculty, staff, or community partner, detailing the applicant's service to and impact on SCSU and/or the student's local community.</p> <p>This is to be completed by the reference by clicking on the link that is auto-generated when you input their information in the application.</p> <p>Instructions for references can be found on the <a href="#">EIL webpage</a>, or in the link they are sent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask your reference if they'd be willing to complete this for you ahead of filling in their name. The greater the understanding between yourself and your reference, the greater the result.</li> <li>• Select a reference that can best speak to your leadership abilities. The reference essay is a chance for your reference to share how you have impacted people, organizations and communities through your leadership efforts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Double-check your application to ensure that it is complete and free of spelling/grammatical errors. If your application is missing required items, it will not be considered for an award.</b></p>			
<p><b><u>The deadline for applications and references is February 12, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.</u></b></p>			

**Additional Consideration - Dennis M. Thayer Leadership Award and Scholarship**

The Dennis M. Thayer Leadership Award celebrates excellence among SCSU student leaders. The award is given to one student receiving the highest score in the Excellence in Leadership Award process. It is in memory of a man employed by SCSU who, in his brief lifetime, demonstrated the highest level of regard for leadership, by all and for all. The one recipient of the Dennis Thayer award receives a \$1,500 scholarship. The awardee is kept secret and will be announced at the banquet.