



**Joan and Burnie Cohen Scholarship Criteria**

The Joan and Burnie Cohen Scholarship was established by Shirley Bloom in 2014. The Scholarship will be given in memory of Joan and Burnie Cohen who devoted their lives to education and community service. The purpose of the Joan and Burnie Cohen Scholarship is to help women, 23 years or older, who are re-entering college, with financial help to obtain an education that will offer them the chance to secure employment, personal independence, and self-sufficiency.

The Joan and Burnie Cohen Scholarship’s primary goal is to help women who have the greatest financial challenges to continue to move forward in their education and gain skills that will result in employment and self-sufficiency. This scholarship is restricted to students attending Fullerton College. Many achieve self-sufficiency through training and educational opportunities offered at Fullerton College or will move forward to California State University with a four-year degree in their chosen field.

The total amount of the Joan and Burnie Cohen Scholarship is \$1,200 per scholarship. Disbursement is divided up into two payments of \$600 per successful completion of academic units as stated on the application. The Scholarship may be renewable with the applicant reapplying per funding cycle. Applications are due by May 8, 2017 and to be submitted to:

**YWCA of North Orange County  
ATTN: Joan and Burnie Scholarship Fund  
215 E. Commonwealth Avenue, Suite E  
Fullerton, CA 92832  
E:Mail: [datamanager@ywcanoc.org](mailto:datamanager@ywcanoc.org)**

**Criteria: To be eligible to apply for this scholarship, the applicant must:**

- Be a woman, 23 years or older, re-entering college and who can demonstrate a critical need for financial assistance. Priority is given to women who had more than a four-year break in their education, going back to school after a layoff, a change of career or due to a change in family dynamics. A letter of support from a professor, academic advisor, or employer that speaks to the applicant’s personal qualities is required.
- Exhibit a strong desire and the ability to complete a vocational training and/or academic program; certificate, associate or bachelor’s degree. Priority will be given to students whose responses to the questions on the application meet the requirements and in a brief essay, explain their current circumstances and their future goals.
- Be currently enrolled with 9 academic units or more in a program of study at Fullerton College.
- Have completed 9 “transferrable” or units that are “eligible for vocational certificate” units of college level work with a 3.0 grade point average based on college transcripts. Cumulative GPA and academic history is considered, but recent academic work that demonstrates the student’s current ability and motivation will take precedence.
- Upon documentation of enrollment in the following or next semester with 9 units of academic classes, the remaining \$600 scholarship disbursement will be awarded upon evidence of transcripts.

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*The mission of the YWCA of North Orange County is to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. We accomplish our mission by addressing the changing needs of women. Through strategic partnerships, we equip individuals to achieve and maintain social, physical, financial, intellectual and spiritual well-being.*