

## Austin Michelle Cloyd Social Justice Scholarship

The team at VT Engage: The Center for Leadership and Service Learning is excited to request applications for the Austin Michelle Cloyd Social Justice Scholarship. This scholarship is made possible by generous donations in the memory of Austin Michelle Cloyd whose legacy has left a profound impact on the lives of many. This scholarship embodies VT Engage's mission to promote experiences that advance community priorities, contribute to student development, and embody *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve.) Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to apply for funds to support and offset costs of experiential learning experiences throughout their time at Virginia Tech.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis at <https://vt.academicworks.com/opportunities/44635>.

### Minimum eligibility criteria

1. Any current Virginia Tech full or part-time undergraduate and graduate student(s). Applicants must be Virginia Tech students for the duration of the scholarship.
2. Applicants must be participating in and use funds to support an experiential learning experience including, but not limited to, study abroad, internships (paid or unpaid), fellowships, undergraduate research, co-ops, and alternative break trips.
3. The experiential learning experience must have a social justice focus. We recognize that social justice is interpreted broadly to reflect the spectrum of challenges facing underserved communities and marginalized communities.
4. Applicants must agree to meet with a member of the VT Engage team at least once during their scholarship duration and for a final share-out of their work after their experience is complete.
5. Applicants must disclose a point person from the experience they are applying for funding for and agree to VT Engage contacting that person for verification.
6. Applicants must agree to meet with a representative from the financial aid office to discuss the ways this scholarship will affect their award package.
7. Applicants must agree to complete a reflection component at the end of their experience including, but not limited to, thank you cards to the donors, meetings with donors, and short essays.
8. Previous award winners are not eligible to apply.

## Guidelines

1. Students may apply for this scholarship at any point in advance of the experience they intend on using the funds for. This does not guarantee the application will be reviewed in time for funds to be dispersed for the experience. We recommend applying at least three months in advance of the experience.
2. Students may use this scholarship for experiences taking place outside of their enrolled academic year, provided they will be enrolled for the semester following the experience.
3. Students may use the funds for a variety of experiences with a social justice focus but they must provide VT Engage with contacts for the organizations they will be working with. An example of this is providing the contact information for the faculty leading a study abroad experience.
4. Funds from this scholarship will be dispersed as a refund to the awardee's financial aid account. This can negatively affect other financial assistance already awarded to the student. For this reason, all students must meet with a financial aid representative before continuing further in the application process.
5. Funds from this scholarship are meant to offset the costs of experiential learning opportunities that may not have otherwise been accessible to students due to financial limitations. VT Engage will prioritize those students with financial limitations during the application process.
6. Award amounts will vary depending on the availability of funding, needs of the applicants, and other factors.

## Application Process

1. Applicants must complete a Scholarship Central application for this scholarship <https://vt.academicworks.com/opportunities/44635>
2. Applicants must also meet with a representative from the Office of Financial Aid to discuss the impacts of this award on their aid package.
3. Applicants will receive a message from our office regarding their application status. Some applicants may be asked to meet with representatives from our office to discuss their applications.
4. Applicants who are chosen to receive the award will receive their funds through the office of financial aid.

## Reporting Requirements

Austin Michelle Cloyd Social Justice Scholarship recipients will be expected to complete a reflection component upon completing the experiential learning opportunity. This reflection component can include:

1. A one-page narrative reflection describing their experience and its overall impact on their student learning experience.
2. Thank you cards hand-written to the scholarship donors.
3. There will be two meetings with members of the VT Engage team: a pre-experience meeting to discuss specifics of the experiential learning opportunity, and a post-experience meeting to reflect on the experience.

## Questions & Accommodations Requests

All questions can be directed to Meghan Kuhn, Director for VT Engage at [engage@vt.edu](mailto:engage@vt.edu) or 540-231-7042. If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, welcome! For requests related to the application, please contact Meghan during regular business hours.

If you anticipate needing accommodations during the program period, we are glad to discuss any needs before or after your application is submitted. Our goal is to remove whatever barriers possible for awardees to be able to fully participate in the program.