



GRADUATING SENIORS AWARD PROGRAM

The Graduating Seniors Award Program was developed to recognize the achievements of those individuals graduating from high school who have made the commitment to continue their training in figure skating while pursuing their academic studies.

Award recipients can expect to receive a certificate and pin based on the award level they have earned. To further applaud the achievements of the individuals awarded, U.S. Figure Skating will publish the names of the recipients on the U.S. Figure Skating Graduating Seniors Award Program webpage. An article about the award will be published in SKATING Magazine after the final awards are sent.

The Graduating Seniors program was reintroduced in 2011, with the goal of encompassing a greater spectrum of athletes deserving of this honor. Recognition is proudly awarded on behalf of the Programs and New Program Development Committee of U.S. Figure Skating to those high school graduates who meet the application criteria.

To be considered for this award, applicants must complete an online application. The application is available on U.S. Figure Skating's Members Only website under Skating Opportunities > High School > Graduating Seniors Application.

Application Timeline:

- Application opens: September 1, 2024
- Early application deadline (to list award on college applications): October 4, 2024
- General application deadline: March 14, 2025
- Late application deadline: June 30, 2025*

All deadlines are as of 11:59pm MT. No applications will be accepted after the close of the U.S. Figure Skating membership season.

**Applications submitted between June 1 and June 30 will only receive digital copies of award materials.*

Following each application deadline and review process by U.S. Figure Skating, the Graduating Seniors certificates and award materials will be mailed directly to the applicant's address listed on the athlete's profile. Once the student receives his/her award materials, they are encouraged to take them to their point of contact at their school or skating club so that the award may be presented to him/her at an appropriate community function.

The Graduating Seniors Program consists of four level designations awarded within the program. Certificates will be awarded to individuals based upon their highest skating achievement (test or competition) **during high school** as noted on their application. The application will automatically calculate an award level based on certain criteria found within the applicant's profile. Other criteria must be manually input to count towards the award. Applicants may not be able to select all criteria but will still receive an award for the highest skating achievement.

Questions regarding this program can be directed to Chloe Roberts, Manager of School Programs, at croberts@usfigureskating.org.



GRADUATING SENIORS PROGRAM CERTIFICATE LEVEL CRITERIA

PLATINUM LEVEL

International competitor in singles, pairs, ice dance, synchronized skating at the junior or senior level.
 U.S. Championships competitor in singles, pairs, or ice dance at the junior or senior level.
 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships competitor at the novice, junior or senior level.
 National High Performance Development Team member at the novice level.
 Gold medalist in three or more test types – skating skills, singles, pairs, pattern dance (partnered or solo),
 and/or free dance (partnered or solo) *.

GOLD LEVEL

Sectional Singles Final or U.S. Pairs/Dance Final competitor in singles, pairs, or ice dance at the juvenile level
 or above.
 U.S. Synchronized Championships competitor at the intermediate level.
 National High Performance Development Team member at the juvenile or intermediate level.
 Gold medalist in one or two test types – skating skills, singles, pairs, pattern dance (partnered or solo), and/or
 free dance (partnered or solo) *.

SILVER LEVEL

International Solo Dance or Theatre On Ice competitor
 National Solo Dance Series competitor
 Excel Series competitor
 Sectional competitor in synchronized skating at the juvenile level or above
 National Qualifying Series competitor in singles, pairs, or ice dance at the juvenile level or above
 Singles, pairs, pattern dance, or skating skills tests passed: bronze through pre-gold

BRONZE LEVEL

National Showcase competitor
 Theatre On Ice Team competitor
 State Games competitor
 High School Skating Team competitor
 Singles, pairs, pattern dance, or skating skills tests passed: pre-preliminary through pre-bronze
 Adaptive tests passed: pre-bronze through gold

*Awards are determined based on the athlete's accomplishments **during high school**. Tests, competitions,
 and other events prior to high school are not considered, in keeping with the goal of the program to recognize skater's
 continued hard work and commitment during high school. Skaters need only meet one of the criteria for any given
 level; they do not need to meet them all.*

**Pattern dance and free dance can count separately towards the cumulative gold medals. An applicant can
 only have one gold pattern dance and one gold free dance count towards their cumulative gold medal test count. Ex:
 Having gold in partnered pattern dance and gold in solo pattern dance will still only count once.*

Timeline for Applications

The early application deadline is October 4, 2024, at 11:59pm MT. This deadline is for applicants wishing to list the award on college applications. Applicants will receive email notification of their award by mid-October and will receive award materials in the spring.

General applications are due by **March 14, 2025, at 11:59pm MT.** Skaters will be notified of their award in late spring, and awards will be sent to the skater for presentation at graduation, senior awards night, or other school ceremony.

No applications will be accepted after June 30, 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions

I passed all my tests before I entered high school. Will they count towards my application?

No, only skating achievements that were obtained while you were in high school will count towards your application and award level.

I graduated already but didn't know this award existed. Can I still apply?

Maybe. Every application cycle opens on September 1st for the high school seniors graduating the following Spring. If you graduated the Spring prior to the next application cycle, you fall into our "grace period" and can still apply. For example, if I graduated in the Spring of 2024, I can still apply for the award in the 2025 application cycle. Athletes that graduated more than one season earlier will not be eligible to apply for the award.

I passed a test right after applying for the award and I should now be eligible for a higher award level. Can I update my application?

Yes, we will accept application updates until the close of the application on June 30th. You simply need to go back to the application and resubmit the entire form. Some criteria will automatically update for you and some will need to be manually updated.

Why didn't I receive my certificate and pin in the mail?

There could be a few reasons: your address is spelled incorrectly, you moved, you applied between June 1 and June 30, etc. Before submitting your application, ensure that all your contact information is correct and will be valid until the end of the season. If you plan to move or change addresses after submitting your application, please contact memberservices@usfigureskating.org so they can help update your address. Athletes that apply between June 1 and June 30 will receive digital materials only.

I have a Learn to Skate membership. Can I apply?

No, only Aspire and U.S. Figure Skating full members may apply for this award.

I graduated last year and am no longer a member. Can I still apply?

No, this award is only open to current members of U.S. Figure Skating. Even if you fall within the grace period, if your membership is no longer current, you cannot apply.

Can I have a letter to send to my school so they can recognize my award?

Yes, in your application portal, you will be able to download digital copies of your certificate, and a letter addressed to your school based on the information you put in your application. The letters will not be automatically sent to your school, so you will need to download and forward it to the proper administrator.