



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 in the Spring.

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 on the "Graduating Seniors Page" on the "Programs" menu dropdown.

Application Timeline:

- Application opens: no later than September 1, 2023
- Early application deadline (to list award on college applications): October 2, 2023
- General application deadline: March 18, 2024
- Late application deadline: June 30, 2024

All deadlines are as of 11:59pm MT. No applications will be accepted after the close of the 2023-24 U.S. Figure Skating membership year on June 30, 2024.

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 list on the application. At the same time, an e-mail describing the award and distinction will be sent to the listed point of contact listed on the application. 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.

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



GRADUATING SENIORS PROGRAM CERTIFICATE LEVEL CRITERIA

PLATINUM LEVEL

International competitor in singles, pairs, ice dance, synchronized skating.
U.S. Championships in singles, pairs, or ice dance at the junior or senior level.
National High Performance Development Team member at the novice level.
U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships competitor at the novice, junior or senior level.
Tests Passed: 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.
National High Performance Development Team member at the intermediate level.
U.S. Synchronized Championships competitor at the intermediate level.
National Showcase Parade of Champions at the junior or senior level.
Tests Passed: 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

Nations' Cup competitor
National Solo Dance Series Final competitor
Excel Series Final competitor
Sectional competitor in synchronized skating at the juvenile level or above
National Qualifying Series competitor in singles, pairs, or ice dance
Tests Passed: Singles, pairs, pattern dance, or skating skills at the bronze through pre-gold levels

BRONZE LEVEL

National Showcase competitor
National Theatre On Ice competitor
State Games competitor
High School Skating Team competitor
Tests Passed: singles, pairs, pattern dance, or skating skills at the pre-preliminary through pre-bronze levels

*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 cannot use a gold partnered pattern dance and a gold solo pattern dance towards their cumulative gold medal count (same with free dance). Ex: a skater that has gold skating skills, gold partnered pattern dance, and gold solo pattern dance will still only be considered as a double gold medalist.*

Timeline for Applications

The early application deadline is October 2, 2023, 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 18, 2024, 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, 2024.