Donors may establish a named scholarship that does not require an endowment. Named annual scholarships are designed to provide immediate annual financial support. Donors wishing to establish a Named Annual Scholarship with specified award criteria must pledge a minimum annual gift of $5,000 or more for at least five years. These funds will go directly to a student in need to underwrite the annual cost of in-state tuition and a portion of the fees. To cover all in-state expenses for a student living in residence would require annual giving of nearly $20,000.

All benefactors have the ability to name their scholarships after themselves or in memory or honor of another. Scholarship donors are provided the name of their recipient and the opportunity to meet the student at a campus event.

Individuals or organizations must consult with staff in the Division of Institutional Advancement in order to establish criteria for named annual scholarship funds. The criteria should be flexible and general to guarantee the widest possible pool of applicants. Acceptable award criteria may include minimum GPA; specific major, program, department, school or college; undergraduate or graduate status; class standing; and residency.

For gifts of less than $5,000, donors may specify the recipient college, school, department or program, or make a contribution to the general scholarship fund to provide as-needed assistance to students through the NCCU Foundation. NCCU may also pool general scholarship resources to make awards to attract and retain academically talented students, many of whom receive competitive scholarship offers from other institutions.