

2025 Energy Pathways Scholarship Rubric

	Question	Word Count	Maximum Points
1	<p>Please write a short personal essay demonstrating a passion for your future career while exploring the relationship between your goals and the energy sector.</p> <p>Please include the following (500-600 words):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why have you chosen to pursue a STEM Field? ● How your unique experiences support the development of required skills to be successful in your future career. ● What obstacles do you expect in achieving your goals, and how you plan to overcome those barriers. 	500-600 words	40
2	<p>What makes you stand out as a candidate for the Energy Pathways Scholarship?</p>	50-100 words	10
3	<p>The State of Utah takes an any-of-the-above approach to energy and mineral development. State policy requires that energy remain: adequate, reliable, dispatchable, affordable, sustainable, secure, and clean.</p> <p>In regards to energy, which of these requirements is the most important to you, and why?</p>	100-200 words	20
4	<p>In September of 2024 at the One Utah Summit, Governor Cox unveiled “Operation Gigawatt,” a collaborative initiative with OED. “Operation Gigawatt” emphasizes the need for more power to meet current and future energy needs because our health, well-being, and quality of life depend upon it.</p> <p>Within Operation Gigawatt there are four key areas to focus on creating an abundance of energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increasing transmission capacity so more power can be placed on the grid and moved to where it's needed. ● Expanding and developing more energy production. This includes keeping what we currently have and developing new sustainable sources. ● Enhancing Utah's policies to enable clean, reliable energy like nuclear and geothermal. ● Investing in Utah innovation and research that aligns with our energy policies. <p>Please pick one of the key areas above and explain both:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How this key focus will help build a better future for Utah citizens. 2. How your desired education and career will help support that commitment. 	100-200 words	30

Question	No Points	50% Points	75% Points	Full Points
1	The applicant does not explain any STEM related goals nor plans to overcome hardships.	20 pts - The applicant demonstrates unclear goals and reasons as to why they have chosen to pursue a STEM field. The applicant somewhat explores the relationship between their goal and the energy sector. The applicant gives no example of how they plan to overcome barriers to their study.	30 pts - The applicant demonstrates somewhat clear goals and reasons as to why they have chosen to pursue a STEM field. The applicant somewhat explores the relationship between their goal and the energy sector. The applicant gives at least 1 example of how they plan to overcome barriers to their study.	40 pts - The applicant demonstrates clear goals and passion as to why they have chosen to pursue a STEM field. The applicant explores the relationship between their goal and the energy sector. The applicant gives at least 1 example of how they plan to overcome barriers to their study.
2	The applicant does not identify what sets them apart from other candidates nor explains why.	5 pts - The applicant unclearly identifies what sets them apart from other candidates and explains why.	7 pts - The applicant somewhat identifies what sets them apart from other candidates and explains why.	10 pts - The applicant clearly identifies what sets them apart from other candidates and successfully explains why.
3	The applicant does not demonstrate a clear understanding of the any-of-the-above nor explain why the policy they have chosen is important to them.	10 pts - The applicant demonstrates a poor understanding of the any-of-the-above policy. The reasoning behind their requirement choice shows an attempt at understanding of the complexities surrounding energy.	15 pts - The applicant demonstrates an understanding of the any-of-the-above policy. The reasoning behind their requirement choice shows a fair understanding of the complexities surrounding energy.	20 pts - The applicant demonstrates a clear understanding of the any-of-the-above policy. The reasoning behind their requirement choice shows an excellent understanding of the complexities surrounding energy.
4	The applicant does not select one of Governor Cox's focus areas nor explain how it will build a better future for Utah. The applicant does not demonstrate nor identify how their future career will be beneficial to the state of Utah.	10 pts - The applicant successfully selects one of "Operation Gigawatt's" focus areas and explains how it will build a better future for Utah citizens. The applicant demonstrates little knowledge of Utah's energy landscape and poorly identifies how their future career will be beneficial to the state of Utah.	20 pts - The applicant successfully selects one of "Operation Gigawatt's" focus areas and explains how it will build a better future for Utah citizens. The applicant demonstrates knowledge of Utah's energy landscape and identifies how their future career will be beneficial to the state of Utah.	30 pts - The applicant successfully selects one of "Operation Gigawatt's" focus areas and explains how it will build a better future for Utah citizens. The applicant demonstrates exemplary knowledge of Utah's energy landscape and identifies how their future career will be beneficial to the state of Utah.