

Scholarship Search

Successful Applications

Multiply your opportunities for being awarded!

- * Start your search early.
- * Read eligibility requirements carefully.
- * Organize all your scholarship materials.
- * Proofread your applications carefully.
- * Do not leave items blank.
- * Follow instructions exactly.
- * Make sure your application is legible.
- * Make copies of everything you send-file in a safe place.
- * Double check your application.
- * Get your application in early-don't wait until the deadline.

Scam Slogans and Phrases

How to protect yourself from being scammed

- * "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- * "You can't get this information anywhere else."
- * "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."
- * "We'll do all the work..."
- * "The scholarship will cost some money."
- * "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship."
- * "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

Financial Aid Websites

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.finaid.org

www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.OKcollegestart.org



Basic Tips on Internet Searches

Make every effort count...

- * Make a list of organizations, churches, and foundations to use as subcategories for your search. Being specific will decrease the time you spend in your search and will yield better results.
- * Use a variety of search engines because each will yield different results, i.e., Google, Yahoo, and Bing.
- * After reaching a desired web site, check the sides or top of the home page for links to scholarships, grants, financial aid, funding financial assistance, or education, etc.

Documents

What you'll need to have on hand for applications

- * References-put together a list of persons whom you can contact to write letters on your behalf such as: teachers, counselors, pastor, and club advisors/coaches.
- * Transcripts/Transcript Request Form
Some institutions will allow you to send an unofficial transcript, and others will require that you have the transcript sent directly from the school.
- * College Essay
Have a copy on a flash drive so that you can change parts of the essay to relate more directly to the specific scholarship/grant for which you are applying.
- * Documentation of ethnicity
- * Documentation of disability
- * Financial Information (completed tax returns)
- * Letters of Acceptance from colleges/universities
- * Thank you cards to send to people who helped you

Scholarship Websites

General Databases

www.collegeanswer.com
www.collegenet.com/mach25
www.studentawards.com
www.fastweb.com
www.nationalmerit.org
www.petersons.com
www.scholarshiphunter.com
www.scholarship-page.com
www.financialaid.com
www.fastaid.com
www.scholarshipexperts.com
www.feea.org
www.collegescholarships.com
www.scholarships.com
www.mapping-your-future.org
www.collegexpress.com
www.americorps.org
www.college-scholarships.com
www.coca-colascholars.org/cokeWeb (for Seniors)
www.okhighered.org
www.aie.org
www.scholarships.fatomei.com/college.html

Ethnic Minorities

www.hispanicfund.org
www.hsf.net
www.collegefund.org
www.uncf.org
www.blackexcel.org
www.cherokee.org

Students with Disabilities

www.nfb.org

International/Study abroad

www.internationalscholarships.com
www.iefaf.org

Nontraditional

www.bpwfoundation.org

Military Scholarship Websites

www.militaryscholar.org
www.aerhq.org (Army)
www.afas.org (Air Force)
www.marine-scholars.org
www.nmcrs.org (Navy/Marine Corps)
www.cgmahq.org (Coast Guard)
www.afcea.org
www.military.com
www.veterancentral.com

Planning for College

- * www.princetonreview.com
- * www.collegeboard.com
- * www.okhighered.org
- * www.aie.org

Organize Your Materials

- * Develop a simple spreadsheet to track applications you have completed and submitted.
- * Create a filing drawer using a milk crate, large box, or other container.
- * As you apply, create one file folder for each institution that you apply to for funding.
- * Have a separate file for each of the following to make it easy to refer to or include in a packet along with your application:
 - Your personal background including documentation
 - Family background
 - Financial Information (tax documents, student aid report from FAFSA, etc.)
 - Letters of Acceptance from colleges, universities, trade/technical schools
 - Envelopes (large and regular) and first class stamps

Apply and Track

- * Keep a list of web sites visited to reduce duplication in your search.
- * Enter information into your spreadsheet. Make sure you check off each item that is required as you complete it, and the date you sent information.
- * Use a wall calendar to backdate and enter important deadlines. Write down dates to call back institutions to confirm receipt of your materials, or to follow up as needed. Don't forget to follow up with your references, too!
- * Send out your thank you notes as you go along. Do not wait!