

Helpful Hints for Finding Scholarships



➤ **Determine Which Schools You Are Interested In Attending:**

The logical place to start your scholarship search is to research schools and develop a list of schools that you would like to attend. Why?

1. It will help you identify scholarships offered by the schools that you are interested in.
2. You may discover other opportunities for financial assistance.
3. Many scholarships are created by schools in order to attract certain kinds of students to their schools (based on ethnicity, gender, intended major, etc.).
4. Many scholarship applications will require a list of schools you are applying to.
5. It will help you determine the cost of tuition.

➤ **Other Than Colleges/Universities, Who Else Offers Scholarships?**

Many organizations and businesses offer scholarships. These awards may be for little or large amounts, short or long time periods, and have general or specific requirements for applicants. Examples of organizations to consider for your search would be:

Large Companies
Service Organizations
Your Employer
Foundations
Political Organizations
Pageants
Sports Organizations

Religious Organizations
Social/Community Clubs and Organizations
Your Parent's Employer
Unions
Alumni Groups
Scholarship-focused Nonprofits
Government

➤ **Should I Bother Applying If I Am Not An “A” Student With High Test Scores?**

Scholarship criteria vary widely. A good strategy would be to determine the types of scholarships you may be eligible for and search specifically for those. Some scholarships are earmarked for students pursuing specific careers. Typically, organizations and schools may offer scholarships to students who meet a set of criteria, which could include:

- Demonstrated commitment to community service or volunteer work
- Commitment to pursue a valued career, academic, or research interest
- Demonstrated commitment to fine or performing arts
- Demonstrated athletic achievement and talent
- Economic need
- Students are from an underrepresented ethnic minority group
- Student is a gender minority in their field of interest (ex: male nurses)
- Birthplace (awards for students from a particular city, state, or country)
- Student is the first to go to college in the family
- Contest winners
- High academic achievement
- High standardized test scores

➤ **Apply For Many Scholarships**

The application is by far the most important part of your scholarship search; give it the time it deserves. Many students make the mistake of putting more time and energy into finding scholarship opportunities as opposed to completing the applications.

➤ **Know The Requirements**

Different scholarships have different requirements and use different criteria to select students. Some scholarships may require an essay, passing a written test, or completion of a project. Failure to meet certain requirements (maintaining a satisfactory GPA in college) could jeopardize your ability to keep the scholarship. If you are unsure, don't hesitate to contact the provider of the scholarship in order to insure that you understand all of the requirements and what would be expected of a successful applicant.

➤ **After You Have Been Accepted**

If a particular post-secondary institution has already accepted you as a student, you should apply for scholarships offered through the college or university. To learn about possible scholarship opportunities, contact the financial aid office of the institution.

