

Scholarship Search

Successful Applications

Multiply your opportunities for being awarded!

1. Start your search early.
2. Read eligibility requirements carefully.
3. Organize all your scholarship materials.
4. Proofread your application carefully.
5. Do not leave items blank.
6. Follow instructions *exactly*.
7. Make sure your application is legible.
8. Make copies of everything you send—file in a safe place.
9. Double check your application.
10. Get your application in EARLY—don't wait until the day before or of the deadline.



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Apply & Track

- ♣ Make sure you create a file for EVERY institution to which you apply. Keep copies of everything you submit!
- ♣ 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!

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
 - ❖ Resume (copies) or on disk/USB to print as needed
 - ❖ Financial Information (tax documents, student aid report from FAFSA, etc.)
 - ❖ Letters of Acceptance from colleges, universities, trade/technical schools
 - ❖ Portfolio
 - ❖ Envelopes (large and regular) and first-class stamps

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 and yahoo.
- ♣ After reaching a desired website, check the sides or top of the home page for links to scholarships, grants, financial aid, funding financial assistance, or education, etc.
- ♣ Keep a list of websites visited to reduce duplication in your search.

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
 - ❖ 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 disk so that you can change parts of the essay to relate more directly to the specific scholarship/grant for which you are applying
- ♣ *Resume*
- ♣ *Portfolio*
- ♣ *Documentation of ethnicity*
- ♣ *Documentation of disability*
- ♣ *Cover Letter* (keep on disk to change as needed)
- ♣ *Financial Information* (completed tax returns)
- ♣ *Letters of Acceptance* from colleges/universities
- ♣ *Thank you cards* to send to people who helped you

Military scholarship websites

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



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Scholarship Websites

www.occf.org/scholarships/
tulsacf.org/whatwedo/education/scholarships/
www.scholarshipamerica.org
www.unigo.com
www.salliemae.com
www.fastweb.com
www.nationalmerit.org
www.petersons.com
www.kmfonline.org
www.scholarshiphunter.com
www.scholarship-page.com
www.fastaid.com
www.aasa.org (HS Juniors)
www.feea.org
www.collegescholarships.com
www.princetonreview.com
www.collegeboard.com
www.scholarships.com
www.mappingyourfuture.org
www.collegexpress.com

Ethnic Minorities

www.hispanicfund.org
www.collegefund.org
www.uncf.org
scholarships.fatomei.com/college.html

Students with Disabilities

www.nfb.org/scholarships
www.gmsp.org
www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/disabled-students/

International/Study abroad

www.internationalscholarships.com
www.iefas.org

Nontraditional

www.legion-aux.org
www.collegescholarships.org
finaid.org/otheraid/nontraditional.phtml

Cancer Survivors

<http://drangelagrantscholarship.org/>