

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH & SUCCESS TIPS

Start early. Stay organized. Apply often.

BIGGEST TIP: Always check the scholarship and financial aid pages on the website of EVERY college or training program you are considering. Schools often offer institutional scholarships that may not appear on outside search sites.

8 SMART SCHOLARSHIP HABITS

Start before senior year Students can begin researching opportunities early and build a running list of deadlines.	Apply for local scholarships Check your school counselor, community foundations, churches, service clubs, local businesses, employers, and parent/guardian employers.
Create a scholarship tracker Record the scholarship name, amount, eligibility, deadline, essay requirements, recommendation needs, and application status.	Reuse - but personalize - essays Keep strong essays in a folder, then adjust each one so it answers the specific prompt.
Ask for recommendations early Give teachers, counselors, coaches, or mentors enough time and provide a short resume or brag sheet.	Follow directions exactly Confirm eligibility, word limits, required documents, file formats, and submission deadlines before submitting.
Apply for small awards too Several smaller scholarships can add up, and local awards may have fewer applicants.	Never pay to apply Legitimate scholarship searches and applications should not require you to pay for access to "secret" scholarship money.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Your College or Program Website Look under Financial Aid, Scholarships, Merit Aid, First-Year Scholarships, Department Scholarships, Honors, and Special Programs.	Federal Student Aid - Scholarship Tips Official guidance on where to search and how to avoid scholarship scams. Visit resource
CareerOneStop Scholarship Finder U.S. Department of Labor-sponsored search tool with thousands of scholarship and financial-aid listings. Visit resource	BigFuture Scholarship Search College Board scholarship matching tool for college, technical education, certificates, and other programs. Visit resource
Fastweb Large scholarship database with profile-based matching. Visit resource	Scholarships.com Searchable scholarship database and financial-aid resources. Visit resource
Going Merry Scholarship search and application platform. Visit resource	Your School Counselor / College & Career Center Ask about local awards, district scholarships, community organizations, and scholarships available specifically to students from your school.

WORTH MORE TIP

Treat scholarships like a part-time project: set aside one consistent hour each week to search, update your tracker, revise essays, and submit applications.

Scholarship deadlines, eligibility rules, and award amounts can change. Always verify details on the scholarship provider or school website before applying. Never provide sensitive financial or identity information unless you have confirmed the application is legitimate.

There's just not one pathway to success.