

10 Tips for Scholarship Success

**Find ways to fund your college education
by using these scholarship application tips**



Start your search early

Begin your search early, and conduct as much research as you can. Apply for every scholarship for which you are eligible.



Meet all deadlines

Make note of any deadlines and mark your calendar. Missing a deadline immediately eliminates your chance for a scholarship!



Follow directions

Provide everything that is requested, but no more than is required. Pay attention to the specific instructions on the application.



Make a list of activities and honors

For each application, highlight those accomplishments that are relevant to the scholarship.



Remember, neatness counts

Whether you are submitting a printed or online application, prepare it carefully and review it thoroughly before submitting.



Make copies of your applications

Keep an online or printed copy of every application. You may need to refer to it later if the review committee has questions.



Ask for help

Unless the scholarship organization prohibits it, you should ask questions if there's something you need clarified.



Write your essay

Make a strong impression. Tell a story and use personal examples. Explain how the scholarship will help you and others.



Choose references

Select references that know you well and give them plenty of time to write a recommendation.



Review your application and essay

Read your application carefully and ask someone else to proof and edit it to catch any typos or missing words.

Scholarship Search Sites and Tips to Avoid Scams

Mapping Your Future recommends that you **create a new email address** just for your scholarship search. Most scholarship providers require that you create an account to search or to get matched to scholarships. An email separate from your personal email will help you stay organized; you may see notifications of a match easier; you may see emails from scholarship organizations faster; and any marketing emails from search engines won't clog your school or personal email.

- **Appily** <https://www.appily.com/scholarships>
- **BigFuture** <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-directory>
- **CareerOneStop Scholarship Finder***
<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-scholarships.aspx>
- **Dollars for Scholars** <https://public.dollarsforscholars.org>
- **Fastweb** <https://www.fastweb.com>
- **Niche** <https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships>
- **Scholarship America*** <https://scholarshipamerica.org/students/browse-scholarships>
- **Scholly® by Sallie*** <https://www.myscholly.com>
- **Unigo** <https://www.unigo.com/match/quiz/scholarshipexperts>

Understanding Scholarships and Avoiding Scams

- Read the fine print and understand all terms and conditions before accepting any award.
- Avoid companies or organizations that “guarantee” you a scholarship.
- Never provide confidential or personally identifiable information (PII), such as a social security number until you have been awarded a scholarship.
- Talk to the college financial aid office if you are unsure about a scholarship.
- Check the privacy policy of scholarship websites to make sure your information is protected.
- Learn more about scholarship scams at the Federal Trade Commission website:
<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scholarship-and-financial-aid-scams>

Mapping Your Future does not endorse these sites and is not responsible for the privacy practices or the content of these sites.

*Scholarship search engines which at the time of publication do not require an account are marked with an asterisk.