



Scholarship Search Resources

Like most students, your college career can be costly. Without funding, some individuals may not be financially equipped to take on debt. Thankfully, billions of dollars in scholarship money are awarded annually. Also, you do not have to be graduating high school as a valedictorian or star athlete to acquire funds. While merit-based scholarships exist, many programs award students based on financial need, sexual orientation, or race. Some of the best scholarship websites offer unique programs available for all types of students.

However, BEWARE of Scholarship SCAMS!

- [Beware of Scholarship Scams \(cappex.com\)](http://cappex.com)
- [Beware of Scholarship Scams and Financial Aid Fraud \(savingforcollege.com\)](http://savingforcollege.com)

1. [Scholarships 101](#) – use this handy guide to research for scholarships.
2. [Five Steps To A Successful College Scholarship Search](https://www.scholarships.com/PDF/5-Steps-to-a-Successful-College-Scholarship-Search.pdf) - <https://www.scholarships.com/PDF/5-Steps-to-a-Successful-College-Scholarship-Search.pdf>
3. [CFNC Scholarship Search](https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/) - <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/> - a good starting point for scholarships.
4. [WCPSS Scholarship Plus website](http://www.scholarshipplus.com/wake) - www.scholarshipplus.com/wake - This scholarship newsletter is not an all-inclusive list of scholarship information. It only contains scholarships that we have received at the school. Students are encouraged to check <http://www.scholarshipplus.com/wake/custom.cfm> for more scholarships.
5. [Big Future](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-scholarships) - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-scholarships>
6. [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com/) - <https://www.scholarships.com/>
7. [FAST Web Scholarship Search](https://www.fastweb.com/) - <https://www.fastweb.com/>
8. [Sallie Mae Scholarships for College Planning](https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/) - <https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/>
9. [StudentScholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org/newsletter.php) Please visit www.studentscholarships.org/newsletter.php to download the Student Scholarship newsletter. This newsletter provides information on various scholarships ranging from \$500 - \$50,000. Please note that deadlines vary for each scholarship opportunity.
10. [Great Value Colleges Scholarship Site](https://www.greatvaluecolleges.net/best-scholarship-websites/) - <https://www.greatvaluecolleges.net/best-scholarship-websites/>
11. [College Value Online Scholarship Search Resources:](https://www.collegevaluesonline.com/lists/best-scholarship-websites/) <https://www.collegevaluesonline.com/lists/best-scholarship-websites/>
12. [Discover College Planning/Scholarship Search:](https://www.discover.com/student-loans/college-planning/scholarships/search) <https://www.discover.com/student-loans/college-planning/scholarships/search>
13. [Various Specific Scholarship Websites](#) - [List of Scholarship Websites](#) – click link for a variety of websites that offer scholarships

ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are awards of money that can help students fund a college education. Scholarships do not typically have to be paid back, though students may have to meet certain performance expectations or commitments to maintain a scholarship. Scholarships are awarded based on criteria set by the scholarship provider. Some typical criteria include:

- Merit (academic achievement, GPA, class rank, test scores, etc.)
- Need (family's financial situation)
- Talent (athletic ability, artistic talent, etc.)
- Affiliation (member of ABC Church, child of Rotary Club member, for example)
- Condition (diabetic, left-handed, child of cancer survivor, etc.)

RESEARCHING SCHOLARSHIPS

Researching scholarships can be a full-time job. Students should start scholarship researching scholarships in their first year of high school – especially “full ride” scholarships – so they can use their time wisely in high school and prepare themselves to be the best possible applicants later. Typically, however, students don’t think about scholarships until their senior year of high school. Here are some tips for researching scholarships:

- Start early – more time means more options
- Get organized – keep a calendar of deadlines, keep a notebook or file system
- Seek help early – give your supporters plenty of time to respond, be sure to thank them
- Actively research – scholarship information will not just come to you, you must seek it
- Expand research – HS counselor, college financial aid office, civic groups, employers, etc.
- Don’t pay – never pay for scholarship information or to apply for scholarships
- Keep materials on hand – transcripts, recommendation letters, resume, test scores, etc.
- Follow instructions – do exactly what you are asked to do – no more, no less
- Proofread – check for clarity of content, legibility, accuracy & completeness
- Submit early – being early makes a favorable impression
- Keep copies – hold onto a copy of everything you send & record date sent
- Be patient & persevere – it takes a lot of work & effort and there are no guarantees

In addition to the scholarship sites listed above, there are still more options for you to explore. Remember to also take a close look at these resources:

- Your specific college’s website: Take a close look at the college(s) website. Many times–there will be college or major/program-specific scholarships available. If you cannot find anything, feel free to call the Financial Aid Office or the Admissions Office of the selected college to get a little more information.
- Your high school’s (or district) website: if you are still in high school, you can take advantage of the resources available to you. If you cannot find anything, reach out to your High School counselor or Financial Aid Advisor for help.
- Your community or town’s website: it is possible that your city could have a list of available scholarships or at least point you towards community or service organization that might have some as well. Though some of these scholarships might be smaller, every little dollar amount counts!

College Loans& Grants

Student & Parent Loan Resources - included below are links to information about Student and Parent loans. You will see there are other links embedded in these sites leading to other resources as well.

- CFNC Student & Parent College Loan Information - <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/student-loans/>
- CFNC Grants & Scholarship List - <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/>
- Federal Loans for College & Career Schools - <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans>
- Private College Loans – How to Compare Private College Loans – <https://www.collegecovered.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/How-to-Compare-Private-Student-Loans.pdf>