

# GET YOUR HANDS ON SOME CASH:

Tips On Finding and  
Applying for Scholarships



Thousands of scholarships are available each year to anyone who takes the time to find them and apply. Take advantage of these opportunities to have your educational expenses paid for by organizations and individuals who generously offer free money through scholarships.

## SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

- ›› Apply early. Scholarships are available to students as early as elementary school and through college.
- ›› Apply each year. You will apply for financial aid and scholarships every year you are in college.
- ›› Follow the instructions. Don't leave anything blank. Use the phrase "does not apply" instead.
- ›› Play matchmaker. Tailor each essay and application to match the priorities of each scholarship program. For example, do not write about the time you won a hot dog eating contest in your application to the National Vegan Society scholarship.
- ›› Search locally. There are typically fewer applicants for local scholarship programs, so you may have a better chance of receiving a local scholarship. Local banks, stores, businesses, organizations and places of worship may offer scholarships.
- ›› Ask for help. Get tips from scholarship winners, school counselors and NELA® Centers for Student Success<sup>SM</sup> staff.
- ›› Stay positive, patient and proactive. The scholarship process requires time and effort on your part. Just keep in mind that any work you do now will pay off big in the future.

## SCHOLARSHIP MYTHS & TRUTHS

MYTH	TRUTH
Scholarships are only for athletes, students with good grades and young people.	Millions of scholarship dollars are available for people of all backgrounds, abilities and ages.
Paying for online scholarships searches will help me access billions of unused scholarships.	Don't pay for scholarship searches or provide credit card information. You shouldn't have to pay money upfront to receive a scholarship.
The applicant with the most extracurricular activities wins the scholarship.	Similar to colleges, scholarship providers are looking for well-rounded students. Most scholarships are not based on any single criterion.
Loans might affect my chances for a scholarship.	Taking out a loan has no impact on whether you get a scholarship.
My parents make too much money for me to get financial aid or a scholarship.	Scholarships are based on many factors, not just financial need. All eligible students should complete a FAFSA.

## SCHOLARSHIP PLANNING

- ›› Start building your scholarship portfolio now. Create a system to save the following documents:
  - ››› Transcripts and test scores.
  - ››› Activities chart including:
    - School.
    - Work.
    - Volunteer.
    - Church and community.
    - Family commitments.
    - A personal essay.
  - ››› Letters of recommendation.
  - ››› Awards and recognition.
- ›› Keep track of scholarship deadlines and contact information.

<b>SCHOLARSHIP NAME:</b>
<b>DUE DATE:</b>
<b>Website/Resource:</b>
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## SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

- ›› The NELA Center for Student Success provides free college planning resources and counseling.  
[www.centerforstudentsuccess.org](http://www.centerforstudentsuccess.org)
- ›› TheWashBoard.org acts as a clearinghouse with verified scholarship information and matches those Washington students seeking scholarship support with those looking to provide it.  
[www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org)
- ›› College Board has a variety of information on paying for college, including scholarships.  
[www.collegeboard.com/pay](http://www.collegeboard.com/pay)
- ›› The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) provides outstanding African Americans, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asian Pacific Islander Americans and Hispanic Americans with the opportunity to complete an undergraduate program.  
[www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org)
- ›› This scholarship clearinghouse allows users to search for scholarships by type and provides information on paying for college.  
[www.collegescholarships.org](http://www.collegescholarships.org)
- ›› This site is a comprehensive source of student financial aid information, advice and tools.  
[www.finaid.org/scholarships](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships)
- ›› This website offers information for student financial aid, grants, and scholarship opportunities administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.  
[www.getcollegefunds.org](http://www.getcollegefunds.org)
- ›› Scholarship America helps local communities, businesses and foundations raise money and connect local students with scholarship funds through their Dollars for Scholars program.  
[www.scholarshipamerica.org](http://www.scholarshipamerica.org)