



Scholarship Tips Sheet

Tap into FREE money for college in 3 steps:

1. Complete the FAFSA or TASFA (not both)

You must fill out the FAFSA to qualify for *federal aid* (Pell Grants and low-interest loans). Many states and colleges also use the FAFSA to determine a student's eligibility for state and institutional aid as well (state and institutional grants). www.FAFSA.ed.gov

Students who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA may be eligible to complete the TASFA and qualify for *state and institutional aid*. www.CollegeForAllTexans.com

2. Find Out What Financial Aid Forms Your College Requires

Apply for your college's gift (free) aid by filling out the required forms. In many cases, this will be the FAFSA, but some colleges require the CSS PROFILE or other forms. Contact the college financial aid office to find out, then submit the required forms early or on time.

3. Research and Apply for Outside/Private Scholarships

Start by talking to your school counselor or advisor about how to find scholarships. To apply for an outside/private scholarship, you'll likely have to fill out an application form, and you may also have to submit financial forms.

Scholarship Search and Application Tips

Start your search early. Researching scholarships for which you qualify, completing applications, writing essays, requesting recommendation letters and transcripts all take time. But getting money for your postsecondary education and career aspirations is worth it!

Start with college-specific and local scholarships. The wider the applicant pool, the more competitive the scholarship, so start with the scholarships that have fewer students competing for the \$\$\$.

Read eligibility requirements carefully. You don't want to waste time applying for scholarships for which you do not qualify. Some scholarships have very specific eligibility requirements such as G.P.A. minimums, majors of study, zip code of high school, etc.

Abide by deadlines, which will vary by scholarship. Organizations awarding scholarships are often inundated with applications and will not even look at applications that are submitted after a deadline.

Stay organized and save copies of everything. You'll likely submit the same documents – such as an official transcript and letters of recommendation – for several scholarships. Keeping a copy on hand will prevent you from having to ask for new copies from teachers or counselors. You'll also likely be able to tweak essay responses to fit different applications, so you do not need to start from scratch with each new scholarship application. **#worksmarternotharder**

Check your application and any supplemental materials before each submission. Make sure all questions are answered and that your responses are readable. If you're re-using material, such as an essay from another scholarship application, make sure you change any names or pieces of information that were only relevant to the previous scholarship. Proofread and have a teacher or counselor proofread your materials.



Local Scholarship Resources

Ask your school counselor or Go Center advisor about scholarships specifically for students graduating from your high school, city, county and state. You may find scholarships sponsored by:

- Your church, mosque, synagogue or other religious organization
- Local branches of organizations such as the Rotary Club or Credit Unions
- Your parents' employers
- Your employer

Communities Foundation of Texas Scholarship Center

<https://www.cftexas.org/apply-to-a-cft-scholarship>

Regional and National Scholarship Resources

Going Merry Scholarship App

<https://www.goingmerry.com/>

U.S. Department of Labor's Free Scholarship Search Tool

<https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

<https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>

College Greenlight Scholarship Blog

<http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/category/money/>

College Board Scholarship Search

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

Scholarships.com Scholarship Search

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

Fastweb! Scholarship Search

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

Scholarship opportunities for students with DACA and DREAMers

- ⇒ <http://www.thedream.us/>
- ⇒ <https://www.hsf.net/scholarship>
- ⇒ <http://www.goldendoorscholars.org/>
- ⇒ <http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/category/undocumented-students/>
- ⇒ <http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/>
- ⇒ <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/scholarships-for-undocumented-students/>
- ⇒ <https://higherednotdebt.org/blog/resources-for-undocumented-students-and-higher-education>

Visit duncanvilleisd.org/payforcollege for more financial aid resources.