



NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

November 2021

College Counselors

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November is National Scholarship Month!

If you Google "scholarships for high school seniors", you'll be busy for hours searching through all of the pages that result from your query.

But before beginning to search on Google for scholarships for your senior, the search should start with the colleges and universities that your senior applied to. Some universities will direct you to another page on their website to conduct a search or complete a separate application for scholarships. Check out these pages - [Illinois State University](#) or [Mizzou](#) for examples of this.

Also after receiving an acceptance letter / email, they should read it completely. Often there is information about other scholarships that they may be eligible for. Over the years, I have heard many stories about students that missed out on scholarships because they didn't read the entire letter / email or didn't open an email from the college or didn't check their Application Status page regularly.

Another source is to look for private scholarships. Don't worry - it isn't too late to do this. Almost 80% of these scholarships have a deadline between January 1 and May 31.

Here are three websites that offer an online scholarship search:

www.fastweb.com

www.collegecovered.com

www.salliemae.com

A third source - seniors should check their mchs.me email and the daily bulletin regularly. When we receive information about scholarships, especially local scholarships, we either email the information to the seniors or post it in the daily bulletin.

During the Wednesday, November 17 Community Period, the college counselors will hold two sessions on how to search for / apply for scholarships.

Requesting transcripts For Scholarships

Unlike transcripts for admission that are submitted to the admissions office, a transcript for a scholarship may be delivered in a variety of ways. Here are some examples:

- It may have to be delivered in person to a Human Resources Office or a union office.
- The student or counselor may have to upload the transcript to a website.
- And yes, there are still some applications and transcripts that have to be mailed.

Whatever way the transcript may have to be delivered, we ask that you avoid waiting until the day an application / transcript is due to request a transcript. The process works best when at least a week's notice is given.

According to [Scholarship America](#), here are some things not to do when searching/applying for scholarships

--*Don't fall for scams.* If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. [Here are five signs that a scholarship may be a scam.](#)

--*Don't spend money to make money.* A legitimate scholarship program will never charge you a fee to apply. If an application asks for money, walk away.

--*Don't give out bank or credit card information.* Any financial data you provide should come from IRS or FAFSA data. Legitimate providers do not ask for bank information.

--*Don't avoid a scholarship just because you have to write an essay.* Scholarship essays can be stressful, especially if you think you're not a great writer. But don't be scared — scholarship providers want to know your story, and this is your chance to tell it.

--*Don't count out small scholarships.* A \$250 or \$500 award may not seem like much, but these smaller awards can add up quickly. (And many have short applications — spending a half-hour to win \$500 is quite a payoff!)

Requesting a transcript for College Applications

There are many colleges and universities whose Regular Decision deadlines are in the first week of January. The seniors do not return to school until January 6th.

For any college application that has a deadline during the first week of January, the transcript request must be turned in to Mr. Rodewald or Mr. O'Brien **by WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15.**

Mid-Year Transcripts

Seniors do not have to request a 7th semester transcript unless they receive a letter from the college specifically requesting their 1st semester grades.

A Final Transcript is submitted to the college or university that the student decides to attend. We will meet with the seniors later in 2nd semester to find out where to send their final transcript.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

If you haven't already filed FAFSA, don't worry - it's not too late. To complete it, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The student and one parent will need an FSA ID in order to electronically sign FAFSA. To create a FSA ID, go to www.fsaaid.ed.gov

Acceptance and Scholarship Award Letters

When your senior receives an acceptance letter and / or a scholarship award, please remember to let us know. The student may bring the original to either Mr. Rodewald or Mr. O'Brien - we will make a copy and return it to the student. If the good news is received in an email, just forward the email to one of the college counselors. Congratulations and Thank you!

