



The Top 4 Places to search for Scholarships:

- 1. Colleges and universities give out the most student scholarships in the country.** Check the financial aid webpage of the university where you plan to attend or apply. On their financial aid webpages, they will list all scholarships students can apply for. They may also list external scholarships tailored to their typical student body.
Bonus – The major-specific college (ie: College of Nursing) webpage at your university may list scholarships tailored to that major.
- 2. Local scholarships have fewer applicants; therefore offer a better chance to earn money.** Think about organizations to which you belong. These could be professional or academic organizations, religious affiliations or churches, service groups, etc. Where have you worked or volunteered during high school? Where do your parents work? What union are they a member of? Think about where you live; does your local Kiwanis, Junior Women’s League, Chamber of Commerce or city offer scholarships? Visit these local websites to find out.
*If your school uses Naviance – there is a local scholarship search available through the site which your Guidance Counselors are updating with countless local scholarships for you.
Bonus – The Cleveland Foundation offers a “Common Application” where you can apply for multiple local scholarships using one application! <http://www.clevelandfoundation.org>
- 3. There are countless free scholarship databases online.** If you’re not sure if a website is legitimate, remember – you should never have to pay to access or apply to any scholarship. All scholarship search sites will ask a number of questions about you to streamline the list of scholarships you see. Each scholarship site will offer some unique features. Choose to use 1-2 sites that you prefer at a time. If you try to use more than this at once, it can get overwhelming. See the “Trusted Scholarship Search Sites” on page 2.
Bonus – College Now gives away scholarships for high school students and adult learners. Make sure to apply on our website! <http://collegenowgc.org/money4school>
- 4. Think about what makes you unique.** National scholarships are great, but with 88,000 applicants they can feel like playing the lottery. Instead, seek out scholarships that are tailored to your future professional interests, hobbies, ethnicity, religion and family circumstances. Do you bowl? Do you have a medical condition? Is your family member a cancer survivor? Are you a woman or minority pursuing a STEM major? These are all circumstances for which you can find scholarship money. Add your unique circumstances to a Google search with the word “scholarships” and start applying!
Bonus – Professional organizations frequently sponsor scholarships. Find professional organizations by visiting www.careeronestop.org and clicking on “Toolkit”. They offer a scholarship search in their toolkit too!

The Scholarship Process:

Find the scholarship. Write an essay. Complete the application. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat again.

There are many different scholarships with many of the same requirements. These include:

- The application which might be online or on paper.
- A deadline is deadline. In order to submit all materials on time, don't wait until the day before the scholarship is due to start gathering materials or writing your essay.
- The essay is your opportunity to separate yourself from the rest of the applicant pool. Write about what makes you different from other applicants and make sure to have someone review your essay before you submit it.
Bonus – Craft a well written essay - it's likely that you'll be able to use it for multiple scholarship applications.
- There may be additional information you need to submit to complete your application. This might include:
 - Student Aid Report (SAR) – download from the FAFSA website
 - Financial aid award letter – download from your college website
 - High school or college transcripts – request from your school noting if official or unofficial is required
 - Letters of recommendation – request these at least 3 weeks before your scholarship is due

Trusted* Scholarship Search Sites:

College Board	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/?navid=gh-cp
College Net	http://collegenet.com/elect/app/app
FastWeb	http://www.fastweb.com/
Peterson's	https://www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx
Scholarship Owl	https://scholarshipowl.com/
Scholly	https://myscholly.com/
Scholarships 360	https://scholarships360.org/
Scholarship Monkey	http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com/#
Scholarships.com	https://www.scholarships.com/scholarship-search.aspx
Unigo Scholarship Match	https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/match

*These sites were recommended by US News & World Report as sites that do not sell your information.

Local Scholarships with No Income Requirements:

Maltz Museum	http://www.maltzmuseum.org/stop-the-hate/how-to-enter/
The Singer's Club of Cleveland	https://www.singersclub.org/about-the-scholarship
Alpha Kappa Alpha Scholarship	http://www.akalambdaPhiOmega.org/applications
ABB, Inc. Engineering Scholarship	http://scholarship.leaf-ohio.org/abb-inc-engineering-scholarship/
Nordson Corporation	http://www.nordson.com/en/our-company/community/nordson-builds-scholarship-program

Dedicated Scholarship Sites:

All minority students:	United Negro College Fund	http://www.uncf.org/
	The Jackie Robinson Foundation	http://www.jackierobinson.org/
African American students:	Ron Brown Scholars Program	https://www.ronbrown.org/
Hispanic students:	Hispanic Scholarship Fund	http://www.hsf.net/
Native American students:	Assoc. on Amer. Indian Affairs	https://www.indian-affairs.org
	American Indian College Fund	http://www.collegefund.org/students_and_alumni/content/scholarships
Foster students:	Foster Care to Success	http://www.fc2success.org/