

## Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

### What types of scholarships are available?

There are four major types of scholarships:

1. National scholarships: These are usually found by searching the internet. BEWARE: If the site asks you to pay for applying or other materials, it is probably wise to stay away! Example: FAFSA.com (NO) vs. FAFSA.gov (YES)
2. College/university scholarships: When your student is accepted at two- or four-year institutions, often foundation scholarship information is provided. Please take the time to read this scholarship information with your student to see if your son or daughter should apply. In some cases, simply applying to the institution makes an application to scholarships available, however don't assume.
3. Community scholarships: These scholarships are available through local businesses and organizations. Most of these will be sent to the high school and placed on the school website (Scholarship Database) and in Freddy's Footnotes. It is up to you to check these on a *weekly* basis. The main months for scholarship postings are October-March.
4. OHS scholarships: These scholarships will be presented to all seniors during a class meeting. Application packets will be available to all graduating seniors. These scholarships have been endowed to the School District, Onalaska Foundation for Educational Excellence or the La Crosse Community Foundation. Additionally, some community organizations use the OHS scholarship application process and have the OHS Scholarship Committee select the recipients.

### When does my child apply for a scholarship?

It depends. For categories 1-3 above, a specific date will be posted. Please note that these dates are not negotiable and the school district has no authority or additional information than that provided on the website or other posting.

OHS scholarships will be made available to all seniors in January in a senior class meeting. The information will be shared via a google classroom and students will need to access that information through their school accounts. **Deadlines for OHS scholarships will be in late February.**

### How many scholarships are available?

National and university scholarships are seemingly countless. They do, however, require some time and research!

Each year the Onalaska Community and School District awards over 75 different scholarships totaling thousands of dollars.

### Is it really worth applying; I hear that only a few students get all the awards?

During the 2022 Scholarship Awards Night, 98 different students were awarded scholarships. Please note, most of the 2022 scholarships were earned from post-secondary institutions. Please take the time to apply within the institutions you are planning to attend.

### When is my child made aware of scholarship awards?

National and university scholarships provide individual letters at different times. If your child is awarded a national or university scholarship, it is important that *you let the school know*. **Due to privacy laws, most universities DO NOT inform the school district. If you would like your child to be recognized during the awards night, please let us know so we can add them to the May 2023 program.**

Many private universities list financial aid packages and scholarships on a report sent after acceptance. You are more than welcome to report these scholarships, but please make sure you report the scholarships for *only* the institution in which you plan to attend.

Community scholarships may be given to students at individual organization banquets or meetings, or they may choose to be present at the Senior Scholarship Awards Night in May. Individual letters will be sent to the recipients to explain the scholarship instructions.

OHS and other community scholarships will be presented during the May Senior Scholarship Awards Night. All students who will be recognized will be sent an invitation to attend.

**How does my child claim his or her scholarship?**

Depending on the scholarship, there are several ways that a student may receive his or her award.

- Some provide the award at the time of the presentation
- Some request notification of acceptance to a university
- Some send the check directly to the university
- MOST require that students report first term grades to the school district for release of funds. This award will then be available in January/February for application to the second term tuition payment

As you can see, scholarships can be very difficult to understand as each award has different criteria and different benefactors in which to answer. If you have ANY questions, never hesitate to contact me!

**Bridgett Hubbard, Scholarship Coordinator**

**Onalaska High School**

**700 Hilltopper Place**

**Onalaska, WI 54650**

**608-783-45461 x 5122**

**hubbr@onalaskaschools.com**