



SEARCHING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are free money for college given to students with good grades, athletic ability, community service or other unique qualities by businesses, organizations, or universities.

Scholarships range in both amounts and competitiveness: a local scholarship may offer \$500 for one year, but will only be open to seniors at your high school, while a national scholarship may offer \$10,000 for four years of college, but will be open to students across the country. Here's how your student can get the most out of the scholarship application process:

TO DO	TO AVOID
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fill out the OSAC Scholarship application before March 1. There are over 500 scholarships just for Oregon students with only one application to complete.• Search (and apply) for scholarships on sites like fastweb.com, scholarships.com and bigfuture.collegeboard.com. After answering a few questions, the sites will automatically match you with scholarships you're eligible to apply for.• Apply for local scholarships at the high school, in the community, from employers, and at the college.• Do it every year! Fill out the OSAC Scholarship application every year you will be in college, and continue to apply to other scholarships, too.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paying money for information or assistance with scholarship searches. There are plenty of free options online, or ask the school counselor for help.• Procrastinating! Deadlines are firm, and it's important to get paperwork and applications completed on time.• Wasting time and energy. Make sure you meet eligibility requirements for scholarships before you apply. Also, many scholarship applications require essays on similar topics – it's okay to reuse your work where applicable!

DID YOU KNOW?

OSAC scholarship recipients were awarded an average of \$5,724 in 2015.

Source: [OSAC](#)

COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

MYTH: Scholarships are only for top scholars and athletes and/or are so small that my student shouldn't bother applying.

REALITY: There are many scholarships that do not take grades or athletic ability/participation into consideration. There are scholarships available for vegetarians, tall people, and many other categories! And if your student spends a few hours on scholarship applications and wins just one scholarship of \$500, he just made over \$100 an hour (plus, that's \$500 less he has to pay for school!)

Source: Scholarships.com

PARENT CHECKLIST

- SENIORS – Fill out the OSAC Scholarship application.** Funds are available for over 500 different scholarships with one application just for Oregon students at oregonstudentaid.gov.
- JUNIORS – Update your OSAC activity chart.** Prepare to apply for the OSAC scholarship next year by completing (and updating) a list of your activities, awards, and honors. A PDF version can be found at oregonstudentaid.gov.
- Help your student search (and apply) for other scholarships.** See the helpful hints on the first page on what to do, what to avoid, and where to apply. Juniors may be eligible to apply to some scholarships now. Otherwise, they can make a list of scholarships to apply to in the future.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school.

Visit oregongearup.org to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan. © 2016 Oregon GEAR UP

COLLEGE. It's not a dream, it's a plan.