Searching for Scholarships

PHEAA

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

Presenters

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PHEAA
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

Covering School Costs

Financial Aid: funds to help students pay the cost of an education at a college or career school.

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) to be considered for aid

Free Money:
Grants & **Scholarships**

Earned Money:
Work-Study or savings

Borrowed Money:
Loans

School Costs

Tuition and fees

Housing and Food

Books and supplies

Transportation

Miscellaneous living expenses

Childcare, if necessary

Scholarships are NOT only awarded to Athletes

- Athletics
- E-sports
- Music – chorus, band
- Community and Volunteer Service
- Ethnicity
- Special Interests - hobbies, club membership (Elks, Moose), church
- Employment
- Religion
- Talent / Creativity

- ✓ FastWeb.com
- ✓ Tfec.org
- ✓ Uncf.org
- ✓ Hbcuconnect.com
- ✓ Raise.me
- ✓ Internationalscholarships.com
- ✓ Chegg.com
- ✓ ScholarshipExperts.com
- ✓ Scholarships.com
- ✓ DoSomething.org/Scholarships
- ✓ StudentScholarships.org
- ✓ BigFuture.Collegeboard.org
- ✓ CollegeAnswer.com
- ✓ CollegeNet.com
- ✓ Cappex.com
- ✓ www.iefa.org

When Should you Apply?

Start looking up to one year before you need the funding

Apply for scholarships during your junior and senior year of high school.

Continue to search and apply for scholarships every year you attend college.

TFEC
THE FOUNDATION
FOR ENHANCING
COMMUNITIES
YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

Who We Are

100+ year old, Harrisburg-based community foundation serving
Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Perry, and part of York counties.

What We Do

Partner with donors to achieve their charitable goals and
serve as administrators of those donated funds by investing in local communities
through the creation of permanent funds, investments, grantmaking, strategic initiatives, scholarships and more!

THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIPS

A brighter future for the next generation of community leaders

TFEC is the largest provider of scholarships in south central PA, awarding over $1 million in scholarships annually.

Students

learn more

High School Seniors and Current College students should start here to find TFEC Scholarships they are eligible for, begin researching financial aid, college planning and beyond.

Parents

learn more

Find resources to help support your student through the scholarship search and financial aid process.

High School Counselors

learn more

Find information and tools we put together to simplify promoting TFEC Scholarships and assisting your students in completing an application.

Create a Scholarship

learn more

Give the gift of education! Give students the opportunity they deserve, and leave a legacy or honor a loved one by establishing a scholarship fund.

www.tfec.org/scholarships

THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

Scholarship Overview

160 scholarship opportunities available, accessed by completing:

High School Senior – Universal Application

For current HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS only

A completed application filters ~110 scholarship opportunities. Once submitted, you receive a confirmation message indicating the scholarship opportunities you are eligible to apply for and if there are any required supplemental questions you need to complete.

March 15, 2024, deadline

College Student – Universal Application

For students in COLLEGE at the time of application

A completed application filters ~50 scholarship opportunities. Once submitted, you receive a confirmation message indicating the scholarship opportunities you are eligible to apply for and if there are any required supplemental questions you need to complete.

March 15, 2024, deadline

Stand-Alone Scholarship Applications

For current High School Seniors or College Students

There are ~25 stand-alone scholarship opportunities. High school or college students may apply based on their individual eligibility, which is determined by each stand-alone scholarships' criteria.

Varying deadlines

www.tfec.org/scholarships

THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

Apply

Apply

Enter Access Code | Enter Code

If you have been provided with an Access Code, you may enter it in the box at the top of the page.

Quick Search

AWARD LETTERS _ TFEC Universal Application 2024 — Accepting Submissions from 01/01/2024 to 03/31/2024 — Apply

This is a Universal Application process. You will complete common questions on your application form. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive a confirmation message letting you know which scholarship opportunities you are eligible to apply for and if there are any required supplemental questions you need to complete. Please note scholarships on the Universal Application will have a March 15, 2024, deadline. **Please also check out our comprehensive scholarship list for other opportunities not found on our Universal Application Process but found on our website at TFEC Scholarships.**

Preview

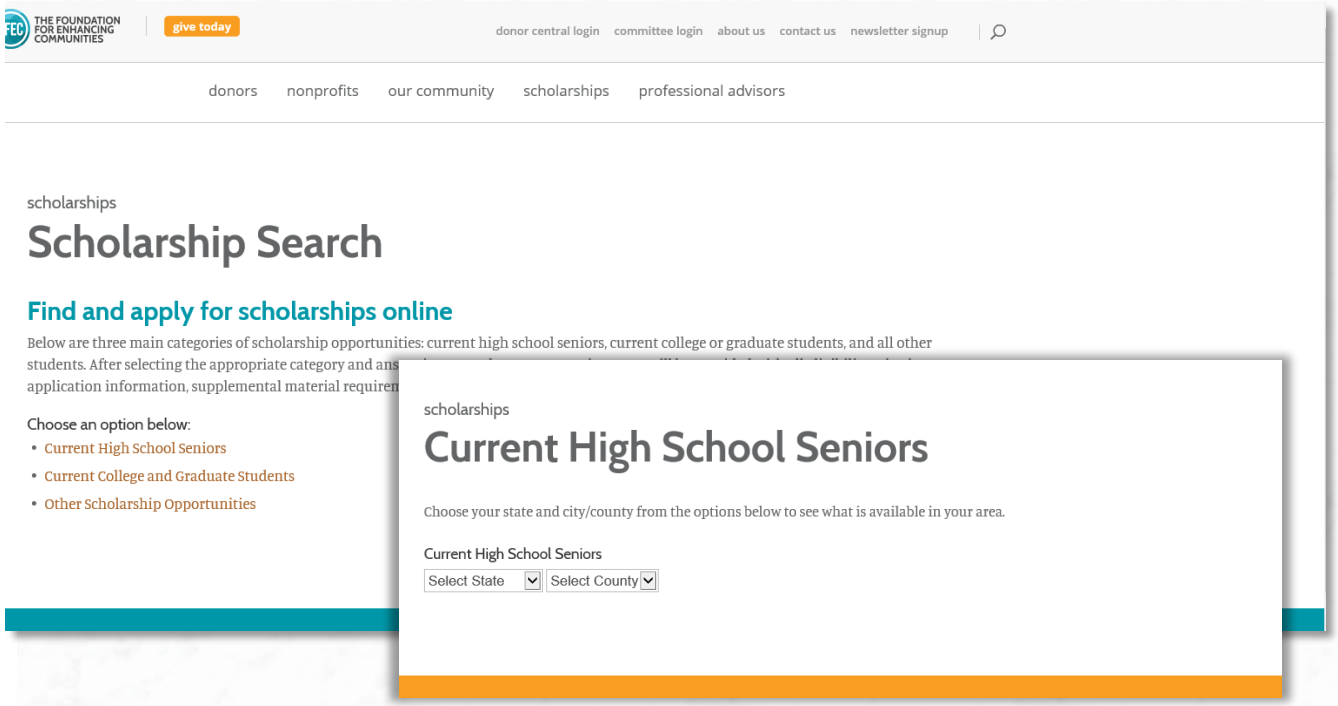
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR- Universal Application -(2024) — Accepting Submissions from 12/13/2023 to 03/15/2024 — Apply

This is a Universal Application process for **current High School Seniors ONLY**. You will complete common questions on your application that will filter for approximately 110 scholarship opportunities. Once you have submitted your Universal Application, you will receive a confirmation message letting you know which scholarship opportunities you are eligible to apply for and if there are any required supplemental questions you need to complete. **Please note scholarships on the High School Senior Universal Application will have a March 15, 2024, deadline. Please also check out our comprehensive scholarship list for other "Stand-Alone" opportunities not found on our Universal Application Process but found on our website at TFEC Scholarships.**

Preview

College Student Universal Application (2024) — Accepting Submissions from 12/07/2023 to 03/15/2024 — Apply

This is a Universal Application process for students in COLLEGE at the time of application. This application filters eligibility for approximately 50 scholarship opportunities. You will complete common questions on your application form. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive a confirmation message letting you know which scholarship opportunities you are eligible to apply for and if there are any required supplemental questions you need to complete. Please note scholarships on the College Universal Application will have a March 15, 2024, deadline. **Please also check out our comprehensive scholarship list for other "Stand-Alone" opportunities not found on our Universal Application Process but found on our website at TFEC Scholarships.**

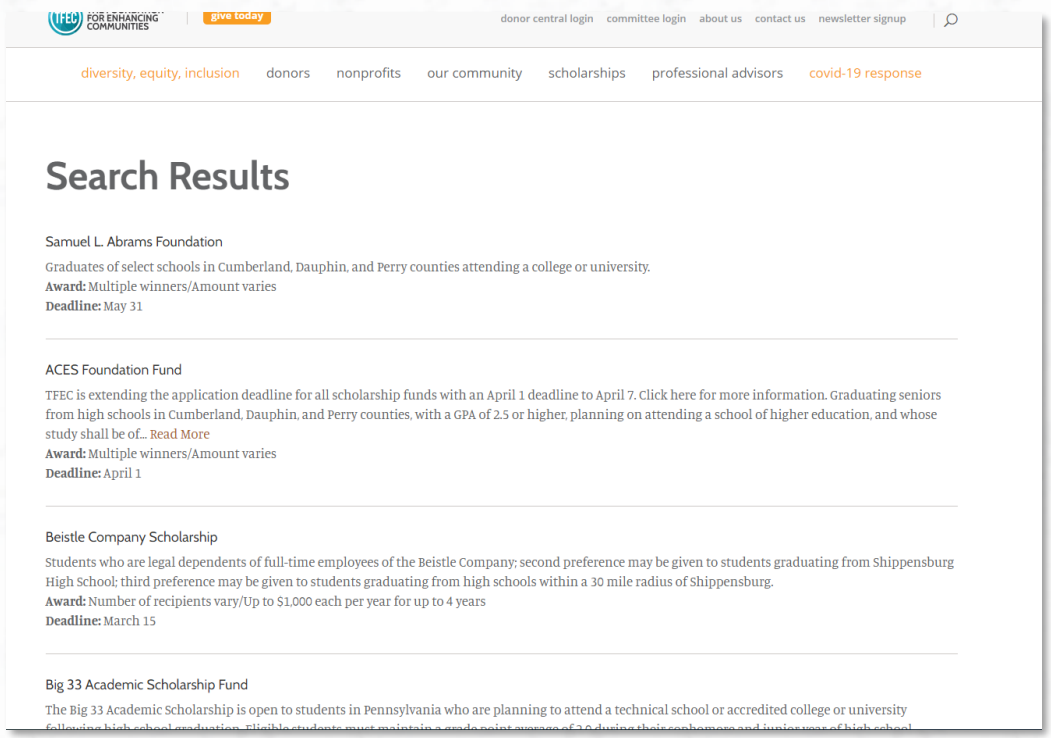


SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

To search by county for scholarships opportunities, complete the following:

www.TFEC.org → Click on **scholarships** → **find a scholarship** → **current high school seniors**

OR **current college and graduate student**



SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Students can scroll through the **Search Results** to identify specific opportunities they may be eligible for based on the additional eligibility criteria. Many of these opportunities will be filtered through the respective College or High School Universal Applications.

The deadline for the TFEC Universal Application is **March 15**.

REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS & PREPARE TO APPLY

1) Review the scholarship's **Criteria** to determine if you're eligible
2) Click **Apply Now**
3) Create an account if you have not previously and apply to the Universal Application (College or High School
4) Check eligibility for each of the Stand-Alone Scholarships, which have different deadlines and/or criteria.

Application links for the
UNIVERSAL SCHOLARSHIPS
are activated **January 1** and will close **March 15**,

STAND-ALONE SCHOLARSHIPS
have varying deadlines.

Be sure to read through all of the information!

ACES Foundation Fund

The Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System (ACES) Foundation Fund wishes to offer a scholarship to Cumberland, Dauphin, or Perry County high school seniors planning to attend a school of higher education whose study shall be of business focus; i.e. management, administration, finance, actuarial sciences, etc. This can also include students studying trades such as cosmetology or HVAC, with the intent to own their own business, or any other entrepreneurial enterprise.

Apply Now >

Deadline
March 15

Award
Multiple Winners/Amount Varies

Scholarship FAQ >

Criteria

1. Plans to pursue a business related career
2. Legal residency of Cumberland, Dauphin or Perry County
3. Attendance at a school of higher education as a full-time student
4. Academic achievement, with a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher
5. Commitment to community and demonstrated leadership qualities
6. Extracurricular activities, including employment and/or volunteering
7. Financial need
8. Essay
9. Supplemental documents. This may include a resume, letter(s) of recommendation, transcript, FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR), or other scholarship-specific documents. Specific requirements are noted in the application.

Essay

Describe your current interests and activities, as well as sharing future goals and ambitions. 300 words maximum.

Renewability

Recipients of this scholarship may reapply for one additional consecutive year. Students who reapply must submit a full application but will be prompted to answer a different essay question.

APPLICATION BEST PRACTICES – For Students

- Utilize the "**Extenuating Circumstances**" question on the application.
  This could be any circumstantial information as to why you need financial assistance.
  Examples: paying for your own college, two kids in college, parent lost job.

- Answer the **essay prompt**, do not use a canned, generic response.

- **Connect with the scholarship donor's intent**. Research the donor's intentions, their mission, who they employ, what type of student are they looking for, etc.

COMMON DENIAL REASONS

- **Financial need**
  - Other grants/scholarships
  - Extenuating circumstances?
- **Pay attention to the eligibility criteria**
  - Residency
  - Location of college
  - Type of major
- **Be careful and smart about the language you use to present your financial situation**

SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING OPPORTUNITY

Many TFEC scholarship recipients attending a PA college receive a match!

PHEAA PATH Program

- TFEC is a PATH participating organization
- TFEC scholarship recipients are eligible to have their awards matched up to $3,500
- Award recipient information is submitted to PHEAA by TFEC staff

PATH Eligibility Criteria – TFEC scholarship recipients are eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled in an approved Pennsylvania college or career school
- Enrolled as an undergraduate student on at least a half-time basis
- Pennsylvania state grant recipient
- Demonstrate financial need

PATH Match – Each match provides last dollar support for tuition and fees. Scholarship funds used for reimbursement of textbook purchases are not eligible for a PATH program match.

For additional information about the PATH Program and detailed eligibility criteria, visit www.pheaa.org.

PRETIGIOUS, STATE-WIDE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

2024 Essay Prompt

Pennsylvania is one of four states with a full-time legislature. Explain what you believe the impact is on policy making and serving the public. Consider comparing Pennsylvania to a state that does not have a full-time legislature and offer some advantages/disadvantages.

PA House of Representatives scholarship application closes **April 15, 2024**.

STATE-WIDE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Big 33 Academic Scholarship

- Open to students in PA who are **planning to attend a technical school or accredited college or university** following high school graduation.
- Eligible students **must maintain a grade point average of 2.0** during their sophomore and junior year of high school.
- Students **must be high school seniors at a public or private school in PA**.
- Students should exhibit such traits as academic achievement, community service, financial need, leadership, obstacles overcome, special talents, and unique endeavors.

To access the Big 33 scholarship application, you need to complete the TFEC High School Universal Scholarship Application. To create an account, go to **www.tfec.org/scholarships/big33** and click **Apply Now.**

SCHOLARSHIP TEAM

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THE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITIES

www.tfec.org/scholarships
717.236.5040

Scholarship Application Tips

Scholarship Tips –Start Early

- Search early
- Get involved
  - Volunteer
  - Clubs, organizations, part-time jobs, etc.
- **Build & protect your "brand"**
  - Clean up social media accounts
  - Create professional email account
- Create folder/location to store scholarship/postsecondary information
  - Letters of recommendation letters
  - Test scores, class rank, etc.
  - Transcript request forms

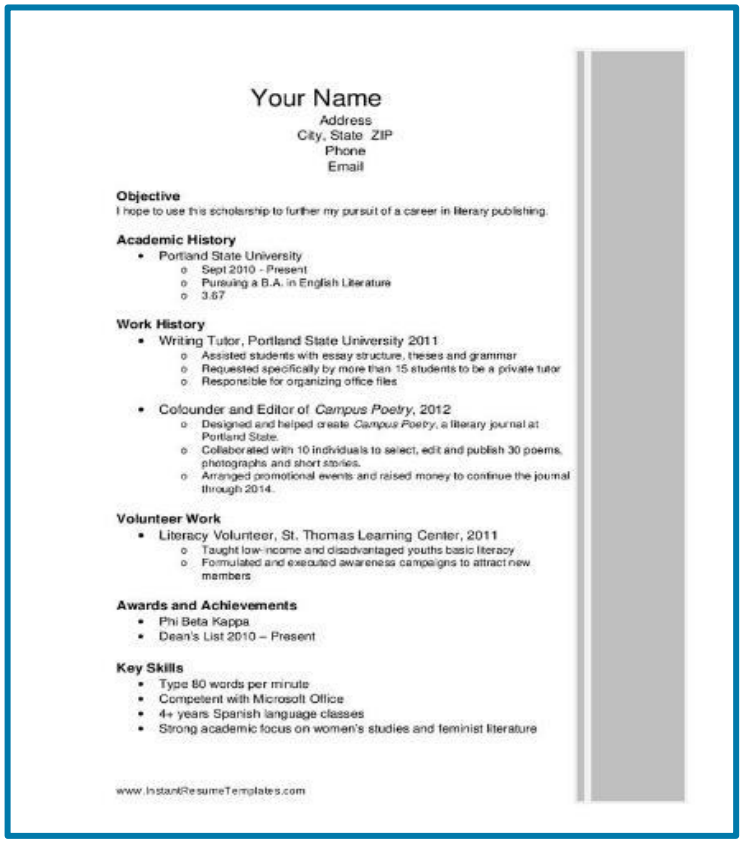
Scholarship Resume

Create a Resume

- Academics – Honor/AP courses, grades, GPA, class rank, test scores
- Personal / Performance – sports, music, art, leadership, achievements
- Extra Curricular Activities – jobs, hobbies
- Volunteerism, Community Activities, Employment

What makes you stand out?

- Besides grades, class rank, test scores



Your Name
Address
City, State ZIP
Phone
Email

Objective
I hope to use this scholarship to further my pursuit of a career in literary publishing.

Academic History
- Portland State University
  - Sept 2010 - Present
  - Pursuing a B.A. in English Literature
  - 3.67

Work History
- Writing Tutor, Portland State University 2011
  - Assisted students with essay structure, theses and grammar
  - Requested specifically by more than 15 students to be a private tutor
  - Responsible for organizing office files
- Colounder and Editor of *Campus Poetry*, 2012
  - Designed and helped create *Campus Poetry*, a literary journal at Portland State.
  - Collaborated with 10 individuals to select, edit and publish 30 poems, photographs and short stories.
  - Arranged promotional events and raised money to continue the journal through 2014.

Volunteer Work
- Literacy Volunteer, St. Thomas Learning Center, 2011
  - Taught low-income and disadvantaged youths basic literacy
  - Formulated and executed awareness campaigns to attract new members

Awards and Achievements
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Dean's List 2010 – Present

Key Skills
- Type 80 words per minute
- Competent with Microsoft Office
- 4+ years Spanish language classes
- Strong academic focus on women's studies and feminist literature

www.InstantResumeTemplates.com

The Essay

- **Don't like scholarships with essays?**– Do them anyway!
  - Give yourself adequate time to draft a solid essay
  - Recycle your essays
- **If given a specific topic/question, stay on track**
  - Answer the question(s) being asked
  - Reflect on a personal story
  - Include details that help you stand out from others
- **No need to repeat what is already collected on the application**
- **Proofread before submitting**
  - Ask a reliable source to proofread (teacher, parent, etc.)
  - Did I say proofread?!
- **Follow instructions**
  - Word count
  - Font size, spacing, etc.

Common Scholarship Essay Questions

- Why do you deserve this scholarship?
- Describe a time you demonstrated leadership.
- What person do you admire the most? Why?
- Where do you see yourself in ten years from now?
- Describe a challenge you have overcome.

Letters of Recommendation

Some scholarship applications will ask applicants to submit one or more letters of recommendation along with the completed scholarship application.

- Choose the right person to write the letter – Don’t ask family or friends
- Don’t wait until the last minute - -give them plenty of time
- Give the writer everything that they need
- Say thank you

Build a Scholarship Toolbox

- Letters of recommendation from teachers, mentors, employers (give adequate notice and copy of scholarship applying for)
- Proof of Volunteer/Community Service hours
- Know where to get class rank and current GPA
- Know your SAT or ACT scores
- File your FAFSA and have a copy of your Student Aid Report (for scholarships based on financial need)
- Copy of essays written
- Checklist

Where to Search for Scholarships?

- Postsecondary Schools
- Locally
- National

Scholarships from Postsecondary Schools

- Scholarships differ from school to school
- Can be awarded based on merit or financial need
- Renewable or non-renewable
- Understand the application process for each school and deadlines.
- Test Scores (SAT/ACT) maybe optional for Admission, however schools may require to award scholarship money.

- DEWALT Trade Scholarship
- National Association of Women in Construction Scholarship
- Lockheed Martin Vocational Scholarship Program
- Imagine America Foundation
- Women in Trades
- Mike Rowe Work Ethic Scholarship Program

Scholarships for Trade or Vocational School

Local/Regional Scholarships

Local organizations
banks, credit unions, stores, restaurants, religious affiliations; clubs/organizations in which parents or students are involved, employers

Regional/state-wide organizations
labor unions, associations, foundations and non-profit groups

Guidance office
Scholarships specific to students at that school, county or region

Search

- Websites & bulletin boards of churches, public, private & civic organizations, including non-profits
- Financial institutions, labor unions, fraternities & sororities, etc.
- Social media pages
- High School guidance office/websites

National Scholarships

Organizations & foundations with national exposure

- Due dates vary
- Lots of competition
- May offer sizable awards

Search

- Corporate websites, scholarship databases, guidance offices
- Brand names of products & services
- School websites

- Mike Rowe Works Foundation
- Live Mas Scholarship – Taco Bell
- Cameron Impact Scholarship
- Equitable Excellence Scholarship
- Coca Cola Scholars
- QuestBridge
- BigFuture Scholarships
- Doodle4Google

National Scholarships

Burger King Scholars

Expressions

KFC Foundation

Work Hard Work Works Foundation

Taco Bell Foundation Live Más Scholarship

Remarkable Futures Chick-fil-A Scholarship

Future Farmers of America Scholarships Local Engagement Programs

Nike Scholarship Fund

The Gates Scholarship

HBCUconnect.com

UNCF

Foot Locker Scholar Athletes | Foot Locker Foundation, Inc.

Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation

Online Scholarship Search Engines

Be Careful of Scams

It might be a scam if…

- You must pay a fee, provide your credit card number or bank information to apply for the scholarship
- The offer doesn’t include any contact information from the organization, such as a valid email address, phone number, and mailing address (a P.O. Box doesn't count).
- You never applied for the scholarship, but you receive a notice that you are the lucky winner
- The offer is filled with typos and spelling errors. For example, "scholarship" is spelled "scholrship”
- What to do if you believe you were a victim:
  - Contact the Federal Trade Center at ReportFraud.ftc.gov
  - Contact your financial institutions & credit card providers, if necessary

Questions to ask regarding Scholarship Awards

Is there a maximum amount of money I can receive?

- Check with the schools regarding their policies
  - Some allow scholarships to be stacked
  - Some reduce internal scholarships
  - Act 55 prohibits public schools in PA from reducing aid

How will I receive the money?

- Check with the scholarship organizations
  - Paid directly to the student
  - Paid to the school
  - Make sure all required documentation has been turned in

"Will an outside scholarship affect my financial aid?"

Scholarship Tipsheet

Scholarship Tips

PHEAA

Scholarships, unlike student loans, **don't have to be repaid** and can reduce the cost of college. The more free money (from scholarships and grants) that you find to help pay for college, the less you'll have to borrow.

Eligibility

Students who apply for scholarships must meet specific eligibility requirements and will be competing against other applicants. Scholarship eligibility may be based on any combination of criteria, including:

- Residency (state, county, or town in which the student lives)
- Affiliation with community or religious organizations
- Extracurricular activities, including community service or clubs
- Degree program, major, or field of study
- Financial need
- Essays
- Academic, athletic, or artistic achievement
- Letters of recommendation

Searching

Many high school students begin searching for scholarships during their junior year. However, there are scholarship opportunities for younger students, as well as current college students. Scholarship information is available from these resources:

- High school website
- High school counselor's office or online portal
- Local library
- College or university
- National scholarship search sites (examples listed on the back)

Applying

To apply for scholarships:

- Determine that all eligibility requirements are met.
- Submit all required application materials by the deadline.
- Find out if applicants are notified of the results.

Q&As

Q. What is a merit scholarship?

A. Colleges are increasingly offering merit scholarships—and not just for academic achievement or athletic skill. Schools may offer merit scholarships to attract diverse groups of students from states not highly represented at the school, or students with talents or circumstances that few others at the school have. Check with admissions offices at schools you're applying to and ask if they offer merit aid.

Q. Should students pay a company to find scholarships?

A. Students and families need to know that some scholarship offers are not what they seem. You can avoid getting scammed by ignoring offers that require you to attend a "free" seminar, pay a "small fee," or provide a credit card number.

Q. Will scholarships affect other sources of financial aid?

A. Scholarships from outside sources may affect other financial aid. By filling unmet need, scholarships may reduce the amount a family has to pay out-of-pocket or they may reduce loans, work-study, or grant aid. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out how outside scholarships may affect your financial aid offer.

Q. How are winners determined?

A. Although scholarships are competitive, keep in mind that you don't have to be the best student in your class to receive one. You simply need to be the best applicant who meets the qualifications for the scholarship.

Popular Scholarship Search Sites:

- ☐ BigFuture.CollegeBoard.org
- ☐ FastWeb.com
- ☐ ScholarshipAmerica.org
- ☐ tfec.org

Keep track of scholarships that you find here!

	Scholarship	Due Date	Notes
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Don't limit yourself—attach another sheet, if needed.

REMEMBER: Continue to search and apply for private scholarships every year that you are in school.

QUESTIONS