



GUIDE TO COMPLETING PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

**START
HERE**

BRAINSTORM BEFORE RESEARCHING SCHOLARSHIPS

Create a comprehensive list of your accomplishments.

- Sports, clubs, babysitting, church, leadership, work experience, family care, etc.

Answer the following common scholarship questions:

- Tell us about yourself.
- Describe a time you overcame adversity.
- What do you plan to study in college? Why?
- What makes you unique?
- Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability in your community.

**NEXT
STEPS**

BE THOROUGH DURING THE SEARCH

- Find **FREE** scholarship search services. (See p. 2.)
- Seek out community resources, including community foundations, community groups, cultural organizations, employers, places of worship, and high school counselors.
- Pay attention to qualifications and requirements (**every** scholarship is different).
- Make a list of scholarships you will apply for.
- Prioritize your list by deadline.
- Add details of all materials required for submission.

**ALMOST
DONE**

COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATIONS

- Work on **one** scholarship at a time.
- Reread specifications of the essay.
- Create an outline using your brainstorm topics.
- **Show** the reader; don't just **tell** them
- Use **specific** examples.
- Write multiple drafts. **Never** submit a first draft essay.
- Proofread! Proofread! Proofread! Have a trusted adult or a peer read over your final draft prior to submission.

TIME TO SUBMIT!

- Make sure your application has **all** required documents.
- Double check that your essay answered **all** prompts given.
- Make a copy! Always keep a record of your submissions.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

Some scholarships may be renewable. However, renewable scholarships might have ongoing requirements, including:

- **Submit a renewal application.** Scholarships may require a new application each academic year.
- **Grade point average.** You may need to maintain a minimum GPA to remain eligible.
- **Satisfactory Academic Progress.** You may be required to fulfill academic requirements, such as completing a certain number of credits or courses within a set amount of time.
- **Designated field of study.** Will you lose the scholarship if you change majors?
- **Full-time enrollment status.** Scholarships frequently require you to be a full-time student.

Talk to your school or scholarship sponsor as soon as you receive the scholarship to determine whether it is renewable and what renewal steps to take. Remember that sponsors offer scholarships throughout the year!

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ELIGIBLE ENTERING STUDENTS

There are many scholarships you can find out more about by using one of the many free scholarship search sites listed below. To learn about U-M scholarships for entering undergraduates, visit finaid.umich.edu/types-aid/scholarships/undergraduate.

MICHIGAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

A number of Michigan-based community foundations offer scholarships to entering college students. We encourage students to explore these opportunities in their community. Here are a few:

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN
cfsem.org/scholarships/

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHEAST MICHIGAN
cfnem.org

KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
www.kalfound.org/scholarships/how-to-apply

JACKSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
jacksoncf.org

SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships

FREE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SERVICES

CHEGG
chegg.com/advice/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid-admissions

COLLEGE BOARD'S SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH
bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search

APPILY
appily.com/scholarships

COLLEGESCHOLARSHIPS.COM

FASTWEB
fastweb.com

SCHOLARSHIPS.COM

SCHOLARSHIP AMERICA
scholarshipamerica.org

HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HACU) SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCE LIST
hacu.net/hacu/scholarships.asp



Applying for private scholarships is a good idea for high school seniors. Continue to apply for them throughout your college career.