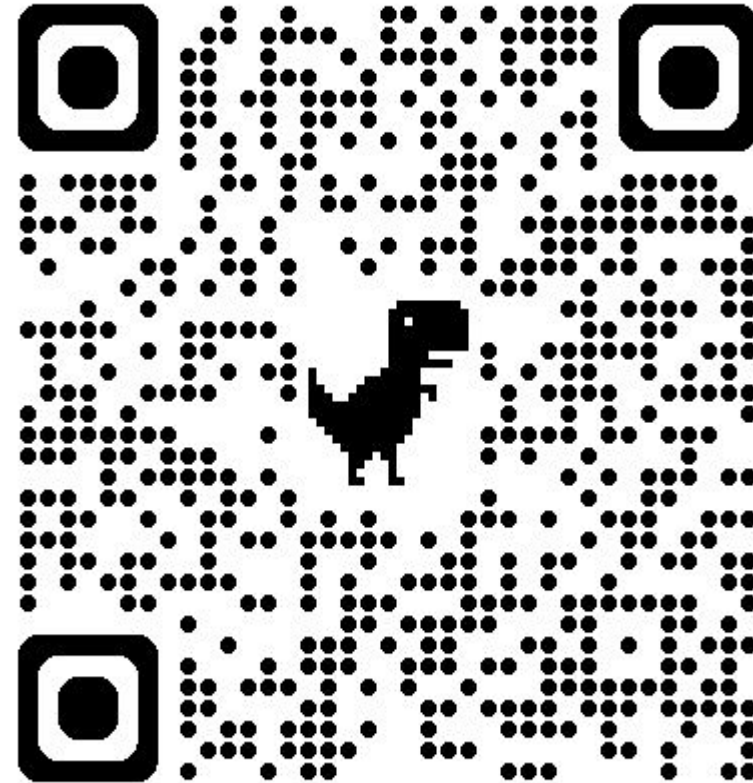


Welcome! We
are glad you are
here 😊

Please register your attendance by using the QR
code.

12/10/2025 Wadsworth HS: Academic Lab





College Now
Greater Cleveland

Scholarship Strategies & Resources

Financing Your Postsecondary Education

Goals of Session

- Understand sources of FREE money and role of FAFSA to access
- Learn where and how to search for scholarships
- Know how to create YOUR plan



Role of FAFSA in Scholarships

What is It?

- FREE online application
- Demographic & financial information
- Gives federal and state governments and colleges a baseline for measuring student need
- Completed every year that the student intends to enroll in college

Why Do It?

- Eligibility for student loans
- Potential eligibility for work-study
- Potential eligibility for Pell grant
- Required by some colleges for scholarship consideration

Scholarships

Scholarships can be

- ❖ MERIT-BASED
- ❖ NEED-BASED
- ❖ CIRCUMSTANCE-BASED
(or combination)

Scholarships **DO NOT**
need to be repaid!



Tips for Scholarship Searching

Think SPECIFIC

Scholarships are available for students based on a wide variety of criteria:

- Academic Achievement
- Certain Majors and Cohorts
- Underrepresented Students

Think LOCAL

Local civic organizations, your high school, and your place of employment all might offer scholarships.

Some local scholarships offer very competitive odds because the applicant pool is small.

Think EASY

Apply to the most obvious scholarships first.

You can apply to multiple scholarships using the same essay (but make sure you are answering the prompt)

Scholarships aren't scary, just a lot of work

The Scholarship Search: Strategies



- Start early
- Be aware of deadlines
- Understand what is required for submission; don't count yourself out ("required" vs. "preferred")
- Have a plan and follow through
- Document your work

Three Types of Scholarships



1. Local/ Regional

Ex.: High-school
; local civic
groups, area
hospitals,
professional
organizations



2. College-specific



3. National

Ex.: FastWeb,
College Board,
Peterson's

1. Local/Regional Scholarship Resources

Medina County District Library: <https://www.mcdl.info/>

SchoolLinks: Check the “district” tab

Wadsworth High School

Area community/civic organizations

Employer/Parent’s Employer

College Now Medina Scholarship Spreadsheet [Click Here](#)

2. College-Specific

- The colleges to which you are applying
- Typically, largest single source of scholarship dollars
- Merit scholarships: “automatic consideration”
- Need to research all opportunities carefully:
 - ❖ Collegewide Opportunities - e.g., President’s Award
 - ❖ Department-Specific Awards
 - ❖ Scholarship Databases



Merit Scholarships

- Merit Scholarships are typically renewable for 3 additional years.
- Each scholarship will have its own set of renewal requirements.
- Know the requirements for renewal!

2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

For new students starting in fall 2024: Merit scholarships and awards are based on a student's cumulative weighted high school grade point average (GPA) and the merit level is established at the time an admission decision is made. Merit scholarship levels are established annually and scholarships are renewable for up to four years at the same level as initially received. Students initially enrolling for January 2024 should contact the [BW Admission Office](#) for information regarding merit scholarships.

Cumulative Weighted High School GPA	Fall 2024 First-Year Merit Scholarships	
3.90+	President's Scholarship	\$21,000
3.75–3.89	Trustees' Scholarship	\$19,000
3.35–3.74	Deans' Scholarship	\$18,000
3.00–3.34	Fellows' Scholarship	\$15,000
under 3.00	BW Yellow Jacket Success Grant	\$12,000

College Scholarship Types

- **Merit-Based** - academics and/or achievements (talent, extracurricular and community service)
- **Need-Based** - student's and/or family's financial need
- **Career-Based** - pursuing a specific career



3. National Sites

Countless free scholarship sites online

Largest applicant pool -someone will win!

Recommend selecting 1-2 sites to use routinely

Will make an account and will receive targeted scholarship opportunities

Variety of scholarship types/requirements

You should never have to pay to access or apply to a scholarship

<https://Collegenowgc.org>

Create Your Plan

Sample Plans that have worked for winners:

applied per week

Specific times/days

Research _____ and apply for _____



Beware!

- Not all scholarship providers have your best interest in mind!
 - Watch out for:
 - *Application Fees*
 - *Guaranteed Winnings*
 - *Too-good-to-be-true offers*
 - *Requests for Social Security Number/other personal financial information*





College Now
Greater Cleveland

Jackson Stuff

216.452.2665

jstuff@collegenowgc.org

For appointments:

<https://outlook.office.com/book/WadsworthHighSchool@collegenowgc.org/?ismsaljsauthenabled>