

Scholarships

CBD College Financial Literacy

Understanding “The Basics”

What is a scholarship?

- ❑ A scholarship is an offering of FREE MONEY to a student based on the student’s skills or qualifications.

Where do scholarships come from?

- ❑ The college/university
- ❑ Community Organizations/Businesses
- ❑ Private sponsors/donors

What types of scholarships are out there?

- ▶ Institutional (from college/university)
- ▶ High School Specific
- ▶ Clubs & Associations
- ▶ Military
- ▶ Credit Unions/Banks
- ▶ Career/College Major Specific
- ▶ Culturally Specific

Employers

Where can I find scholarships?

- ▶ Your high school
- ▶ Financial Aid Office
- ▶ Free websites:
 - ▶ [Fastweb](#)
 - ▶ [Sallie Mae](#)
 - ▶ [Finaid](#)
 - ▶ [College Board](#)
 - ▶ [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#)

Scholarship Databases

- ▶ Databases make locating/applying for scholarships easier.
- ▶ Create account/student profile with as much information about you as possible.
- ▶ Database matches you with list of scholarships that may apply to you!
- ▶ Read each scholarship carefully and apply for the ones you feel you may be eligible for.

How do I apply?

Get Organized! Things you may need to apply could include:

- ▶ Official/Unofficial Transcripts
- ▶ SAT/ACT Scores
- ▶ Letters of Recommendation
- ▶ Resume
- ▶ Written Essay

All scholarships are different and will have varying requirements. Pay close attention to the scholarship application instructions.

Top 10 Things Scholarship Committees consider:

- ▶ An application submitted ON TIME!
- ▶ General qualification, criteria and completeness
- ▶ Community volunteer involvement
- ▶ Leadership Experience
- ▶ Extracurricular Activities
- ▶ The Essay
- ▶ References/Letters of Recommendation
- ▶ Grade Point Average (GPA)
- ▶ SAT/ACT Scores
- ▶ Applicant's personal situation

Scholarship Tips

- ▶ Always be honest about your grades, test scores, experiences, memberships, qualifications, etc.
- ▶ Follow instructions CAREFULLY, and include all required components.
- ▶ Respect deadlines and apply early if possible.
- ▶ Proofread and always have at least one other person read your application/essays.
- ▶ Strive to set yourself apart. Be creative!
- ▶ Follow up to ensure your application was received.
- ▶ Send thank you notes!

Scholarship Scams

Avoid any scholarships/scholarship websites using the following ploys:

- ▶ “There is a small fee to apply for this scholarship.”
- ▶ “Scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”
- ▶ “You can’t get this information anywhere else.”
- ▶ “Credit card or bank account number needed to hold this scholarship.”
- ▶ “You’ve been selected to receive a scholarship.”
- ▶ “First come, first served.”

Final Thoughts

- ▶ Applying for scholarships can be time consuming, but can be well-worth your time.
- ▶ Remember to pace yourself. Set a goal for how many scholarships you wish to apply for!
- ▶ You can't win if you don't apply!

Questions? Contact us!

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