

Scholarships RESOURCES



Federal Grants

The most common “free-money” awards from the Department of Education through Student Aid.gov are the following grants:

- **Federal Pell Grant**
- **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)**

These grants require a current **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** on file each year.

State Grants/Scholarships

Most states have grants and scholarships in which are available for residents of the state. These awards may require a FAFSA, a separate application, or a letter of recommendation, to name a few. These awards could include:

- **Merit-Based Scholarships** (academically strong students)
- **Need-Based Grants** (most commonly the FAFSA is required)
- **Delegates or Senatorial Scholarships** (sponsored by your local representative; commonly a separate application is required.)

Institutional Scholarships

Many colleges and universities have an online Scholarship Search Database (AcademicWorks, Scholarship Universe, Awarded). These platforms automatically match available scholarships to the student based on their profile (major, minor, GPA, leadership skills, etc).

Learn more by searching your higher education institution’s Office of Financial Aid or the Scholarships’ Office.

National Scholarship Organizations

There are nation-wide scholarships in which students may apply to through the organization, which may require an application, recommendation letters, an interview, and more. Awards received are commonly available to fund educational expenses at any college or university of the student’s choice.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation (High School Seniors only)

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation (High School Seniors and College Transfers)

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Scholarships SEARCHES

Searching for College Scholarships?

The search for scholarships can be a long and tiresome process. Nevertheless, the results can be a game-changer in reducing or eliminating the total out-of-pocket cost you have to pay for college.

CrownWiSe is here to provide some helpful resources to get you on the right path of your scholarship journey!

- Finalize a personalized **Essay** with your academic interests, and how the scholarship could benefit your goals.
- Most times, scholarship applications ask about you as a person, so have a **Resume or list of extracurriculars/hobbies/community service** readily available.
- Once you have submitted your application, be sure to **follow-up and check your email** for an outstanding items or award decision dates.
- **Befriend your college's Financial Aid Office.** The staff at your school's financial aid office offer resources and are aware when new scholarships or funds first become available to students.
- **Be prepared to show gratitude.** If you are awarded a scholarship, be prepared to write a thank you note in gratitude to the individual donor or organization sponsoring your funds.

Good Luck!

BEWARE!! Red Flags

Unfortunately, there are scam websites and scholarships erroneously posted on the world wide web to capture students' very personal information. So we want to warn you about the **red flags** you should look out for in your scholarship search.

Red Flags

- **Requesting social security numbers (SSN) for you and/or a parent.**
- **Tax Form Information** (not in all cases, but some) - Tax Information is included on a successfully submitted FAFSA that omits SSNs, wages, etc.
- **Home Lifestyle** - Questions whether you live alone.
- **Payment/CC Information** - 99.9% of the time, college scholarship applications are free to be considered, therefore, if they are asking for a payment, credit card information- RUN!

Vetted Scholarships Search Engines

Here are a list of **Scholarship Search Sites that are vetted for legitimacy.** Remember- You should **never** be asked for your Social Security Number or other high-secured data when submitted an application for consideration.

- Your college/university's scholarship search engine
- [Big Future](#) by CollegeBoard
- [Fastweb](#)
- [College-Scholarships](#)

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