Scholarship Opportunities and Preparing Your Application

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Scholarships



"a grant-in-aid to a student (as by a college or foundation)." (Mirriam Webster)

Merit Scholarships – Awarded based on criteria such as academic excellence, athletic prowess, or artistic achievement.

Need-based Scholarships – Awarded based on financial or income-based criteria, such as family income.

Federal Student Aid Website

A good place to start for college scholarship planning.

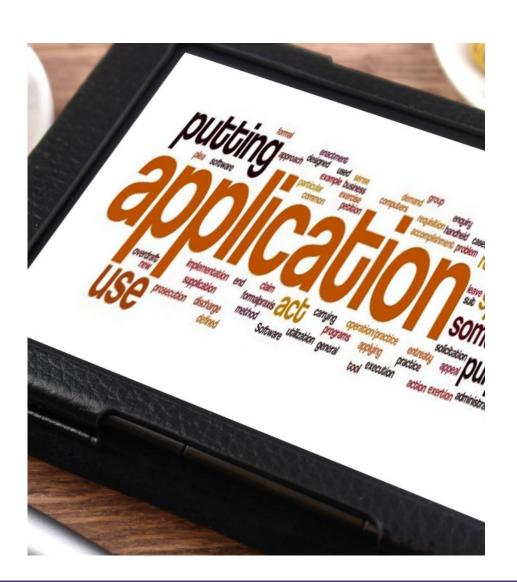
Today.

When do I need to start the process?

Pre-College College

Preparing Scholarship Applications

- As noted previously, start early.
- Apply to many scholarships, but make sure you understand the qualifying criteria.
- Follow all the instructions for a complete application.



Tips from College Board's Big Future

- Don't miss deadlines
- Start your research early
- Read eligibility requirements carefully
- Get organized and gather the materials most typically needed
- Follow instructions
- Check and recheck before submission
- Keep copies of everything
- Track the package

Please, Please, Please

- Make sure you filled in all the blanks in the application. Ask if something is confusing.
- If you are reusing parts of an essay or letter from another application, make sure you have updated any names or content specific to the scholarship.
- Proofread and have others read for spelling, missing words, grammatical errors.



How do I find scholarships?

Pre-College College

Finding Pre-College Scholarships

- Fewer national opportunities, but check out sites like
 - https://finaid.org/scholarships/age13/
 - https://scholarships360.org/scholarships/scholarships-formiddle-school-students/
 - https://www.edvisors.com/scholarships/winscholarships/free-scholarships/students-under-age-13scholarships/
- Check out pre-college programs at area colleges, universities, museums.
- Explore programs of interest for financial aid and scholarships (Teen Life, NAGC Resource Guide).

Federal Student Aid Website

"...contacting the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend and checking information in a public library or online. But be careful. Make sure scholarship information and offers you receive are legitimate; and remember that you don't have to pay to find scholarships or other financial aid. Check out our information on how to avoid scams."

Finding College Scholarships

- Start local
 - Talk to your guidance counselor about local scholarships.
 - Ask for a list of scholarships students from your school have won in the past.
 - Use existing community connections: service clubs (e.g., Rotary), houses of worship, local companies.
- Explore National Sites
 - Scholarship databases (but check sources!)
 - College Board
 - Fastweb.com
 - Scholarships.com
- College and universities of interest

Questions?

Center for Talent Development

www.ctd.northwestern.edu | 847/491-3782

Contacts

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