



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.

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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

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

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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.

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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-for-middle-school-students/>
 - <https://www.edvisors.com/scholarships/win-scholarships/free-scholarships/students-under-age-13-scholarships/>
- Check out pre-college programs at area colleges, universities, museums.
- Explore programs of interest for financial aid and scholarships (Teen Life, NAGC Resource Guide).

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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

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Questions?

Center for Talent Development

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