



University Transfer Center

# Scholarship Tips

## While You're Searching

- **Explore all of your scholarship options.** Look for scholarships online, in reference books, and at the financial aid office.
- **Consider local scholarship opportunities:** a local scholarship is probably your best chance for getting a scholarship. This means it will be less competitive as there are less applicants. Local banks, credit unions, grocery stores, and churches are all potential resources for community resources.
  - Small local scholarships = less competition
  - Big national scholarships = more competition
- **Start ASAP and apply early:** there are many scholarships that have early application deadlines, so don't miss out on these opportunities.
- **Check university/college-specific scholarships:** check with the university/college you plan to transfer to.

## Before You Apply

- **Get involved** and stay involved in extracurricular activities if possible.
- **Apply for as many scholarships as you are eligible for:** several smaller scholarships can add up to a lot of money.
- **Apply only if you are eligible:** read all the scholarship requirements and directions carefully, to make sure that you are eligible before you send in your application.
- **Be persistent!** Be prepared to spend many hours researching for scholarships and even more time completing the application. Your time will pay off. Start early and don't give up.
- **Select the right people to write your letters of recommendation** and give them plenty of time to do a good job (allow at least two weeks).

## During Your Application

- **Read the supplemental materials** with the scholarship application to better understand the program's focus (community service, academics, subject interest). Answer the questions with the focus area in mind.
- **Answer questions as they are asked.** Don't go off topic.
- **Fill out all forms completely,** accurately, and legibly. Type whenever possible.
- **Abide by application requirements and deadlines,** use checklists, and get organized.
- **Make a copy of all applications before mailing,** and obtain a certificate of mailing for everything you mail.
- **Promptly return all information requests** from scholarship committees.

## Beware of Scholarship Scams

- **Do NOT pay any organization,** company, or individual to apply for scholarships, for scholarship search assistance, or for access to scholarship lists. Legitimate scholarship programs NEVER ask for an application fee.
- **No one can guarantee you will be awarded a scholarship.**
- **Do not give out personal information** like bank account, credit card, or social security numbers.

# Scholarship Resources

## Websites

- [www.sbscholarship.org](http://www.sbscholarship.org)
- [www.ahcfoundation.org](http://www.ahcfoundation.org)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)
- [www.salef.org](http://www.salef.org)
- [www.AB540.com](http://www.AB540.com)
- [www.latinocollegedollars.org](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org)
- [http://e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplist.html](http://http://e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplist.html)
- [www.collegegrant.net](http://www.collegegrant.net)
- [www.collegescholarships.org](http://www.collegescholarships.org)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov) (volunteer positions in your area)

## Written Resources available in the University Transfer Center

- Peterson's Scholarship Almanac
- Peterson's Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes
- Dollars and Sense for College Students by Ellen Braitman
- The College Board's College Cost & Financial Aid Handbook
- Cash for College by Cynthia Ruiz Mckee and Phillip C Mckee, Jr.
- How to go to College for Almost Free by Ben Kaplan

## Other Sources

- Local library
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Allan Hancock College:
  - Financial Aid office
  - Library
  - University Transfer Center
  - Career/Job Placement Center
- Your or your parents' employer(s)
- Local chapters of national organizations (i.e. Lion's, Elk's, Kiwanis, etc.)
- Social or community service groups you or your parents are affiliated with