



Searching for Scholarships

When beginning your scholarship search, your best opportunities will be close to home. A thorough check of these resources can uncover the majority of scholarship possibilities. If you have already selected a career field, contact professional organizations in that field for potential scholarship opportunities. More tips on how to get scholarships are available from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) at www.nasfaa.org/publications/2008/anscholarships070208.html.

Many scholarships are based on select criteria such as:

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|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| * Grades | * Chosen college | * Chosen major | * Organization affiliation |
| * Race | * Athletic ability | * Religious affiliation | * Leadership ability |
| * Gender | * Parents' place of work | * Military background | * Financial need |

Scholarships are the most publicized and talked about form of financial aid. It is important to remember scholarships are one source of financial aid with grants, employment, and loans being additional sources of financial aid. Remember to apply for federal and state financial aid to be considered for grants and low interest student loans.

Resources

SCSU Scholarship Search	www.stcloudstate.edu/financialaid/types/scholarships.asp
Black College Dollars	www.blackcollegedollars.org
College Answer	www.collegeanswer.com
College Fund (Native American)	www.collegefund.org
Fast Aid	www.fastaid.com
Fast Web	www.fastweb.com
FinAid	www.finaid.org
Gates Millennium Scholars	www.gmsp.org
Hispanic College Fund	www.hispanicfund.org
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	www.hsf.net
Latino College Dollars	www.latinocollegedollars.org
OCA (Asian American)	www.ocanatl.org
The Princeton Review	www.review.com
The SallieMae Fund	www.salliemae.org
Scholarships for Hispanics	www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org
Student Aid on the Web	www.studentaid.ed.gov
UNCF (African American)	www.uncf.org
Next Student	www.nextstudent.com/nextstudentloans/sse1
Migrant Scholarships	www.migrant.net
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities	scholarships.hacu.net/applications/applicants
African American Scholarships	www.littleafrica.com/resources/scholarships.htm
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund	www.maldef.org
Scholarship Experts	www.scholarshipexperts.com

Avoid Promises of Easy Money!

Students and families are often motivated by claims of “millions of dollars in scholarships going unclaimed each year.” Scholarship search companies that want to sell their services usually make this statement. The following are scholarship scam warning signs:

- You have to pay a fee or they offer a money back guarantee. Never pay money to get free money. Don't pay any money to a company searching for scholarships or assisting you with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Requires credit card or bank account information. Never give out your credit card number or bank account number over the phone.