



The Top Places to search for Scholarships:

1. **Colleges and universities give out the most student scholarships in the country.** Check the financial aid website of the university where you plan to attend or apply. On their financial aid site, they will list all scholarships students can apply for. They may also list external scholarships tailored to their typical student body. Make sure to check all of their resources – they may be listed on a few web pages.

Bonus – The major-specific college (ie: College of Nursing) at your university may list scholarships tailored to your major/concentration/interest. Make sure to check their website as well.

2. **Local scholarships have fewer applicants; therefore offer a better chance to earn money.** Think about organizations to which you belong or organizations that have a presence in your city, county or state. These could be professional or academic organizations, religious affiliations or churches, service groups, etc. Where have you worked or volunteered during high school? Where do your parents work? What union are you or they a member of? Think about where you live; does your local Kiwanis, Women’s League, Chamber of Commerce or city offer scholarships? Visit their local websites to find out. See page two of this document for a list of local scholarships that do not have income requirements.

*If your high school uses Naviance – there is a local scholarship search available through the site which your Guidance Counselors are updating with local scholarships for you.

Bonus – The Cleveland Foundation offers a “Common Application” where you can apply for multiple local scholarships using one application: <http://www.clevelandfoundation.org>

3. **There are countless free scholarship databases online.** If you’re not sure if a website is legitimate, remember – you should never have to pay to access or apply to any scholarship. All scholarship search sites will ask a number of questions about you to streamline the list of scholarships you see. Each scholarship site will offer some unique features. Choose to use 1-2 sites that you prefer at a time. If you try to use more than this at once, it can get overwhelming. See the “Trusted Scholarship Search Sites” on page 2.

Bonus – College Now has scholarships and scholarship databases for high school, undergraduate, graduate and adult learner students; check them out at: <http://collegenowgc.org/find-scholarships/>

4. **Think about what makes you unique.** National scholarships are great, but with 88,000 applicants they can feel like playing the lottery. Instead, seek out scholarships that are tailored to your niche professional interests, hobbies, ethnicity, religion and family circumstances. Do you bowl? Do you have a medical condition? Is your mom a cancer survivor? Are you a woman or person of color pursuing a STEM major? These are all circumstances for which you can find scholarship money. Add your unique characteristic to a Google search with the word “scholarships”. See “Dedicated Scholarship Sites” on page 2.

Bonus – Professional organizations frequently sponsor scholarships. Find professional organizations by visiting www.careeronestop.org and clicking on “Toolkit”. They offer a scholarship search also.

The Scholarship Process:

Find the scholarship. Write an essay. Complete the application. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat again. There are many different scholarships, many with the same requirements. These include:

- The application - which might be online or paper.
- A deadline is deadline. In order to submit all materials on time, don't wait until the day before the scholarship is due to start gathering materials or writing your essay.
- The essay is your opportunity to separate yourself from the rest of the applicant pool. Write about what makes you unique and make sure to have someone else review your essay before you submit it. Craft a well written essay - it's likely that you'll be able to use it for multiple scholarship applications.
- There may be additional information you need to submit to complete your application. This might include:
 - Student Aid Report (SAR) – download from the FAFSA website
 - Financial aid award letter – download from your college website
 - High school or college transcripts – request from your school noting if official or unofficial is required
 - Letters of recommendation – request these at least 3 weeks before your scholarship is due

Local Scholarships with No Income Requirements:

Maltz Museum	http://www.maltzmuseum.org/stop-the-hate/how-to-enter/	Students in 6 th -12 th grades
Spangenberg Law Firm	http://www.spanglaw.com/scholarship	Video application!
LGBT Community Center of Cleveland	http://www.lgbtcleveland.org/pride-scholarship.html	Friend to the LGBTQ community
ABB, Inc. Engineering Scholarship	http://scholarship.leaf-ohio.org/abb-inc-engineering-scholarship/	Engineering or Software Development – HS senior
Nordson Corporation	http://www.nordson.com/en/our-company/community/nordson-builds-scholarship-program	HS senior or current college student
Ratner, Miller, Shafran Foundation	See Cleveland Foundation Scholarship page	

Trusted Scholarship Search Sites:

College Board	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search	
FastWeb	http://www.fastweb.com/	Choose to "Skip this offer" to cut down on emails/mail
Peterson's	https://www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx	
Scholarship Monkey	http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com/#	
Chegg Colleges	https://www.chegg.com/scholarships	
Unigo Scholarship Match	https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/match	

Dedicated Scholarship Sites:

All grad and undergrad:	AKA Educational Advancement Foundation	https://akaeaf.org/scholarships
Students of color:	United Negro College Fund	http://www.uncf.org/
	The Jackie Robinson Foundation	https://www.jackierobinson.org/apply/
African American students:	Ron Brown Scholars Program	https://www.ronbrown.org/
Hispanic students:	Hispanic Scholarship Fund	http://www.hsf.net/
Native American students:	Assoc. on Amer. Indian Affairs	https://www.indian-affairs.org
	American Indian College Fund	http://www.collegefund.org/students_and_alumni/content/scholarships
Foster students:	Foster Care to Success	http://www.fc2success.org/
	UMPS Care	http://www.umpscure.com/AllStarScholarship.html
Students with disabilities:	Disability.gov	https://www.disability.gov/scholarships-specifically-students-disabilities/
Women:	American Association of University Women	http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/