



# Scholarships

## LEARN

Scholarships are a form of financial aid that can help you pay for college. Unlike some other forms of financial aid, scholarships do not have to be repaid!

All scholarships are unique and are awarded based on different criteria. However, most require a completed application form, an official high school transcript, and your responses to short-answer questions. Generally speaking, there are two broad scholarship categories (and some scholarships are a combination of the two):

- **Financial Need Scholarships** take your finances (and your family's finances) into account. This information is usually gained from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which is one reason why it's so important to complete this on time!
- **Merit Scholarships** are awarded based on your individual accomplishments. Most colleges, and many organizations, offer merit-based scholarships for students with strong academic records, leadership qualities, and/or community involvement, among other things.

Within these two categories, there are many types of scholarships given by various organizations and for different reasons. Here are just a few examples:

- Academic (grades and academic achievement)
- Athletic (sports)
- Career (professional organizations and unions)
- Corporate (offered by companies to their employees and sometimes to anyone)
- College (specific to college student wishes to attend)
- Community (local organizations and groups and/or community involvement/activism)
- Skill/Talent (arts-based and/or creative organizations and groups)
- Background-specific (e.g., for special needs, medical issues, family life, or students' race, gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation, LGBTQI, etc.)
- Combination (e.g., academic and community service or athletic and need-based)

# Scholarships

CAREER FINDER (CONTINUED)



## REFLECT

Take time to fill out the squares below with attributes that make you unique. Thinking about your special characteristics can guide you as you consider which scholarships to apply for as well as which skills and qualities you should highlight to help you stand out from the other applicants.

<b>Skills &amp; Talents</b>	<b>Extra-Curricular Activities</b>
<b>Unique Personal Traits</b>	<b>Unique or Defining Background Information</b>

## BEGIN

Now that you have a better idea of the qualities that make you stand out from the rest, you're ready to start looking for scholarships! Use the resources and tips compiled below to help you kick off your search.

### Personal Checklist:

- Start your scholarship search early and block off time each week to pursue it.
- Think outside the box! Look for a variety of scholarships.
- Check out scholarship search sites, such as the following:
  - [Fastweb](#)
  - [Cappex](#)
  - [Chegg Scholarships](#)
  - [Scholarships.com](#)
  - [CollegeBoard](#)
  - [RaiseMe](#)
  - [Scholar Snapp](#)
  - [CHCI NextOpp](#)
  - [Niche](#)
  - [Unigo](#)
  - [Bold.org](#)
  - [CollegeScholarships.org](#)
- Fill out and submit a [FAFSA](#) by the deadline.
- Consider taking the [PSAT/NMSQT](#) exam. If you take this test during your 11th grade year, the results may help qualify you for some merit-based scholarships.

# Scholarships

CAREER FINDER (CONTINUED)



## For general advice, questions, and/or information, turn to:

- The counseling office at your school
- The financial aid office at a college or university
- Your library's reference section
- Clubs and organizations

## Branch out into your community and find out if any of these offer scholarships:

- Your employer or your parents' (or other relatives') employers
- Ethnicity-based organizations such as the United Negro College Fund
- Community groups such as Toastmasters, Chamber of Commerce, or Kiwanis
- Foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups
- Organizations (including professional associations) related to your area of study

## Check local, state, and national government resources:

- [Your state grant agency](#)
- [Federal agencies](#)
- The U.S. Department of Labor's [free scholarship search tool](#)

## Research national corporate scholarships, such as the following:

- Doodle 4 Google
- The Gates Scholarship (@TheGatesScholar)
- Regeneron Science Talent Search
- Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation (@cokescholars)

For more information about the financial aid process, check out [Financial Pur\\$uit](#), a free self-paced module on [TGR EDU: Explore!](#)