



EXPLORING OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

WHERE AND HOW TO LOOK:

There are numerous outside scholarships available from a variety of sources. Students who apply for local scholarship opportunities tend to have a greater chance of selection since the applicant pool is typically smaller than in a national search. Either way, students are encouraged to apply locally and nationally for the best chance.

- Talk with your high school counselor or the financial aid office at your current college to see how and where they collect information about private and outside scholarships from local donors.
- Reach out to community organizations, places you volunteer, your parents' employer, or your own employer.
- Contact the program (for the major of your choice) at the colleges you are considering to see if they have additional scholarship opportunities.
- Apply online using scholarship search sites
 - Remember to avoid scholarship search sites or organizations that attempt to charge you a fee. There are many FREE scholarship resources and paying for help is not necessary.
- Even if you are concerned about your grades or test scores, it is still worth applying as some scholarships use other criteria to determine eligibility.

WHEN TO LOOK:

The best time to begin searching for outside scholarships is no later than the fall of the year before you plan to use them. Scholarship applications are the most active beginning in January each year with deadlines as early as March.

Early deadlines allow donors to review the applications and determine their recipients in time to announce them at graduation ceremonies. Some scholarships are for younger students so there is value in looking for scholarships even sooner than your senior year of high school.

Below are a few reliable scholarship search sites. Keep in mind that there are broad category scholarships and some with specific applicant requirements like race, ethnicity, faith community, college major, disability, community involvement, etc.

- ❖ The College Board Scholarship Search: collegeboard.com/paying
- ❖ Cappex: cappex.com
- ❖ FinAid!: finaid.org
- ❖ Student Scholarship Search: studentscholarshipsearch.org
 - Like many others, this site has a “Tips & Advice” tab that talks about, among other things, “Weird Scholarship Requirements” and includes several examples like scholarships for people who are tall or who win duck calling contests. Also, doing a search for “Weird College Scholarships” produces some very interesting results.
- ❖ Washington Scholarship Coalition (for residents of Washington State): www.thewashboard.org