

Tips for Scholarship Success

Start with FAFSA. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after Oct. 1 of your senior year and every year you need financial aid. Many students don't realize they may qualify for federal and state aid such as grants, scholarships, work-study or low-cost student loans. Learn more at StartWithFAFSA.org.

Start now. Don't wait until your senior year of high school to start applying for scholarships. Many are available to students starting in middle school or younger. Check out the scholarship sections at UCanGo2.org and OKcollegestart.org to review awards for students of all ages.

Be prepared. Start saving all of your important college planning documents like report cards, ACT and/or SAT scores, letters of recommendation and documentation of community service projects and extracurricular activities. These documents will come in handy when completing college and scholarship applications and tracking your achievements. Don't forget when you create an account on

OKcollegestart.org you have access to a life-long portfolio that stores all your important college planning documents.

Do your research. Set up an appointment with your school counselor to talk about your scholarship options or contact the financial aid office at your local college or technology center campus for free resources. You can also call the State Regents' Student Information Hotline at 800.858.1840 (toll-free) or email studentinfo@osrhe.edu to learn more about financial aid. Select the Scholarships link at UCanGo2.org and visit the numerous other websites that offer free resources and scholarship searches, including:

BigFuture.collegeboard.org

FastWeb.com

Scholarships.com

Cappex.com

OCCF.org

Scholarships360.org

Chegg.com/scholarships

OKcollegestart.org

StudentScholarshipSearch.com

College-Scholarships.com

Petersons.com

Study.com

CollegeXpress.com

SallieMae.com

Unigo.com

Go local. Many clubs, city organizations and churches offer scholarships. If you aren't sure, ask! Applying locally for scholarships means you're competing against fewer people.

Do the "write" thing. Many scholarships require an essay, but don't let that discourage you. Preparing scholarship essays can often be a fun experience, because it gives you the opportunity to write about interesting topics like your future goals or a favorite service project. Also, statistically, scholarships that require essays have fewer applicants, which means you have a greater chance of winning the award. Read the application thoroughly and craft your essay to set yourself apart and meet the criteria. Keep a few great essays you can customize for future scholarship applications.

Don't miss the boat. There's nothing worse than writing a great scholarship essay only to realize you've missed the deadline. **Apply for as many scholarships as possible**, complete the applications thoroughly and keep track of the requirements for each one so you don't lose out on free money by missing the deadline or forgetting to include your transcript or recommendation letter.

Take it to the next level. Clean up your social media. "Like" social media sites that offer scholarship information, such as Facebook.com/UCanGo2, which provides information on scholarships every week. Set up a Google alert to find scholarships. Use an email address that looks professional. Send a written thank you note if you're awarded a scholarship.

Watch out. Scholarship scams are real. Beware any request for your bank account, credit card or Social Security number. A guarantee that you'll win a scholarship sounds good, but it pays to be cautious. Learn more about scams at ftc.gov/scholarshipscams.



Specialized Scholarships

AStribe.com
(Absentee Shawnee)

Bahkhoje.com (Iowa)

CheyenneandArapaho-nsn.gov

Cherokee.org

Chickasaw.net

ChoctawNation.com

ComancheNation.com

DelawareTribe.org

KawNation.com

KickapooTribeOfOklahoma.com

MiamiNation.com

MuscogeeNation.com
(Muscogee/Creek)

MyCaddoNation.com

OsageNation-nsn.gov

PawneeNation.org

PeoriaTribe.com

Ponca-nsn.gov

Potawatomi.org

QuapawTribe.com

SacandFoxNation-nsn.gov

SCtribe.com (Seneca-Cayuga)

Shawnee-nsn.gov

Sno-nsn.gov (Seminole)

WichitaTribe.com

Wyandotte-Nation.org

AFB.org (Vision Loss)

APIAScholars.org
(Asian and Pacific Islander)

BlackScholarships.org

CancerForCollege.org

DiabetesScholars.org

FTTTF.org (Burn Survivors)

GMSP.org
(Gates Millennium Scholars)

HSF.net
(Hispanic Scholarship Fund)

IEFA.org (International)

InternationalScholarships.com

Jack & Julie Narcolepsy Scholarship

JackieRobinson.org
(Minority Students)

LifeHappens.org (Family Death)

LULAC.org (Latin American)

Military.com

NationalMSSociety.org (MS)

PointFoundation.org
(LGBTQ Students)

StudentScholarshipSearch.com/Ethnicity

TMCF.org (HBCU Students)

UCBEpilepsyScholarship.com
(Epilepsy)

UNCF.org (Minority Students)

Understood.org (Learning Disabilities)



Native American students: If your tribe isn't listed here, visit the Oklahoma History Center website <https://www.okhistory.org/research/aitribes>. Members should also contact their tribal office for more specific information.



Visit [UCanGo2.org](https://www.UCanGo2.org) and [OKcollegestart.org](https://www.OKcollegestart.org) to find scholarships and to learn about scholarship success.



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