

# 12 Essential Scholarship Tips for Students

Enhance your chances of earning a scholarship with these search and application tips.

Edited By [Christa Fletcher](#) | August 15, 2014

## 1. Start Your [Scholarship Search](#) Early

The old adage, "the early bird catches the worm," is particularly true for scholarship applications. Students who give themselves plenty of time to find, plan and complete their scholarships early, are more likely to get them. The more time you dedicate to writing your essays and finalizing your applications, the better your chances are of submitting them before the due date and (hopefully) winning those scholarships.

## 2. Organize Your Scholarship Applications

Once you've found all of the scholarships you want to apply for, you should create a detailed list with the deadlines and items you need for each application. There are many lists of scholarships online, but having one list that is customized for you is a great way to stay organized.

## 3. List Your Accomplishments

Before you begin filling out scholarship applications, you need to create a list of accomplishments. If you've never won an award, that's okay. Extracurricular activities, having a high school job, volunteering, and good grades look great on the list of accomplishments, too. Showing the variety of your skills and talents will also give them a better perspective of your personality and work ethic. Plus, you'll have more to talk about if you score an interview with a scholarship committee.

## 4. Look for Scholarships Everywhere

Scour the web and ask for advice from adults you admire in your local community. The more scholarship options you know about, the more chance you have of finding scholarships that fit your needs and eligibility criteria.

## 5. Be Selective With Letters of Recommendation

Teachers, mentors, coaches, community leaders and bosses are all ideal sources for letters of recommendation. Think about the activities you do and then consider which people can speak to your achievements, personality and skills in those activities. And be sure to send a thank you note if someone writes a letter of recommendation for you!

## 6. Proofread Your Entire Application

Always go through and manually proofread all of your essays and applications. The computer can miss a lot of typos and isn't the best grammar checker.

## 7. Apply to Many Scholarships

Scholarship hunting is a numbers game. The more scholarships you apply to, the more money you can earn for college.

## 8. Remember: Quality Comes First

If you turn in a bunch of essays that you know are mediocre, then you're selling yourself short. Make sure that you're proud of every application you turn in.

## 9. Don't Forget to Take a Break

You never know when a new experience will inspire your next great essay!

## 10. Make Copies of Your Applications

Keeping a well-documented record of your essays and applications could save you time for future applications.

## 11. Understand the Terms of Your Scholarships

Be sure to read the terms very carefully and notify your college financial aid office. The amount could affect your financial aid offer letter.

## 12. Keep Up the Good Work

Once you've sent in your scholarship applications, you must continue to get good grades and participate in extracurricular activities.

Adapted from:

<http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/8E6479A9/12-Essential-Scholarship-Tips-for-Students/>

Check out their site for the full article and more tips!

- ⇒ Take the time to organize scholarships by deadlines.
- ⇒ If your are in 9th, 10, or 11th grade, look at scholarships for 12th graders and start a list for your senior year! **Start with the school you wish to attend**

September	February
October	March
November	April
December	May
January	June, July, August

# Scholarship Search Engines

Start with [TheWashBoard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org) a free, web-based, non-profit, scholarship clearinghouse for Washington students. *Students can also search for scholarships in the following places:*

**Cappex:**

<http://www.cappex.com/>

**Collegeboard:**

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

**College Mapper:**

<http://www.collegemapper.com/scholarships/search>

**CollegeNet:**

<http://collegenet.com/>

**Gearup Scholarship List:**

<http://gearup.wa.gov/resources/scholarships>

**FastAid:**

<http://www.fastaid.com/>

**FastWeb:**

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

**Quest Bridge:**

<http://www.questbridge.org/>

**Raise.me (to earn micro-scholarships to certain colleges)**

<http://www.raise.me>

**Scholarships.com (phone app available):**

<https://www.scholarships.com>

**Scholly (this phone app charges a small 1 time fee):**

<https://www.myscholly.com/>

**SchoolSoup:**

<http://www.schoolsoup.com/>

**UniGo:**

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>





# Scholarship Search Engines for Non-U.S. Citizens



Not all scholarships require US citizenship or FAFSA scores. Please check out the following websites for scholarships that do not require residency or citizenship.

***Aspira Association, Inc.***

<http://www.aspira.org/book/scholarships>

***College Scholarships for International and Non-U.S. Citizens***

<http://collegeapps.about.com/od/grantsandscholarships/tp/college-scholarships-international-students.htm>

***Latino College Dollars***

<http://latinocollegedollars.org/>

***Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF)***

***Scholarship guide and resource available***

<http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships>

***Salvadoran-American Leadership & Educational Fund (SALEF)***

<http://www.salef.org>

***Scholarships A-Z***

<http://www.scholarshipsaz.org/>

***Scholarships for undocumented or non-citizen students:***

[http://www.metedu.org/rcac/scholarships\\_noncitizen.php](http://www.metedu.org/rcac/scholarships_noncitizen.php)

***Scholarship Guide for Non-U.S. Citizens***

***Use this guide to get a list of scholarships to research***

[http://gearup.wa.gov/sites/default/files/resources/beyond\\_dreaming\\_wa\\_state\\_2015.pdf](http://gearup.wa.gov/sites/default/files/resources/beyond_dreaming_wa_state_2015.pdf)

**FAFSA Information or Help for Non-U.S. Citizens:**

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/non-us-citizens>