

SCHOLARSHIPS 101

Scholarships are free money you **DO NOT** have to pay back. They can reduce how much you need to borrow to pay for college.



SPONSOR TYPES

- **Private Scholarships:** Awarded by private organizations like foundations or businesses.
- **Institutional Scholarships:** Awarded by your university.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Need-Based Scholarships:** Based on financial need as determined by your Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or, for some private scholarships, by family or individual income.
- **Academic & Merit Scholarships:** Criteria for academic performance and extracurricular involvement vary by scholarship. Merit scholarships do not always have academic components. They could focus on sports, arts, leadership, or community involvement.



APPLICATION TIPS

- Organize your scholarship application deadlines. (SEE ORGANIZATION PDF)
- Create a résumé of accomplishments.
- Gather letters of recommendation. (BE SURE TO ALWAYS TELL YOUR REFERENCE BEFORE YOU USE THEIR LETTER)
- Write an essay that can be easily tailored to multiple questions. Tell YOUR story. What makes you stand out.



TIMELINES

- Deadlines can range from October through March of your senior year in high school, but some are earlier. Dates are roughly the same for those already in college.
- **Junior Year & Earlier:** Research scholarships from organizations, local businesses, and community groups.
- **Summer Before Senior Year:** Compile a list of potential scholarships and deadline dates.
- **Fall of Senior Year:** Fill out applications, write essays and submit applications.
- **Winter of Senior Year:** Continue applying and track your applications.
- **Throughout College:** You can earn new scholarships at any point during college. Keep researching opportunities and applying.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Renewability:** Is this scholarship available next semester? Next year? If YES, mark it on your calendar.
- **Required GPA:** What grades do you need to maintain the scholarship, if awarded?
- **Required Location:** Is this scholarship based on your location? City? County? State? *Local scholarships are typically ONLY available if you live in that area.
- **Credit Minimum:** Do you need to take a certain amount of credits to receive the scholarship? Full-time? Part-time?
- **Deferral:** If you take time off school, can you defer the scholarship?
- **Major Transfer:** Are you still eligible for the scholarship if you change majors?
- **Where Do the Funds Go:** Does your university require the presenting organization to send the funds? Is the check written out to you? Do you need to post on your account the scholarship funds you will receive?