

Letters of Recommendation

When asking someone to write you a letter of recommendation, ask them if they can write you a *good* letter of recommendation. The purpose of the letter of recommendation is to provide the selection committee with third-party documentation and validation of your background. They want to read the opinion of someone who is familiar with your background and knows you well.

Provide the recommender with a stamped and addressed envelope and any required forms. It is also helpful to provide them with a summary of the purpose of the award. Ask him or her to write the letter at least four weeks before it is due and follow up about 10 days before the application is due.



Sites to Start Your Search

General Scholarship Sites

www.scholarships.com
www.fastaid.com
www.edfund.org
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.healthprofessions.ca.gov
www.carpediemfoundation.org
www.dosomething.org/brick

Program Specific

www.choosenursing.com
www.minoritynurse.com
www.campusrn.com
www.discovernursing.com
www.apta.org (PT)
www.aotf.org (OT)
www.capa.net.org (PA)
www.aawpinc.com (DPM)
www.aanpfoundation.org (FNP)

Population Specific

www.thepointfoundation.org (GLBT)
www.uncf.org (African American)
www.hsf.net (Latina/o)
www.collegefund.org (Native American)
www.uspaacc.com (Asian American)



Applying for Scholarships

There's more money out there than you think!





Get Organized

Put each application's materials in a separate file folder. Attach a checklist to the front listing all the required materials and the date you requested and sent the materials.

The checklist should also indicate the deadlines. Keep a photocopy of your entire application so you can resend it in case it is lost in the mail, and to refer to when applying for future. Keep a master checklist of all the scholarships to which you are applying, so you can check off the completion of each application.

Do Not Miss Deadlines

If you miss a deadline, your application is disqualified, regardless of your excuse. Set your own personal deadline at least two weeks prior to that date, so that your application materials are ready well in advance of the official deadline.

Improving your Chances

- **Read and follow the directions.** If you don't, you will give the scholarship committee the impression that you can't or won't follow instructions.
- **Do not skip questions or leave any blanks.** If a question does not apply to you, write "Not Applicable". An incomplete application will be rejected.
- **Write an interesting essay.** Write about something you find interesting, and you'll be able to write a more interesting essay. Try talking about the essay topic while recording the conversation if you have a hard time writing.
- **Find a unifying theme** that binds together the threads of your background into a tapestry that shows not only where you have been and where you are now, but where you will go in the future. This will provide a sense of direction and cohesiveness.

- **Write an outline for your essays.**
- **Give concrete examples.**
- When you write about how an experience affected you, also include how your feelings affected your future actions.
- **Don't exaggerate.**
- **Proofread your applications.** Check your application forms and essays for correct spelling and grammar usage.
- **Ask someone else to proofread your application.**
- **Type your application.**

