

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a multitude of scholarship opportunities available to students who are willing to “search.” Companies, unions, foundations, community organizations, and others sponsor scholarships each year ranging from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Searching for scholarships takes time and energy, but keep in mind that it’s free money.

MANY SCHOLARSHIPS ARE BASED ON CRITERIA LIKE:

- ◆ Grades-academic performance
- ◆ Chosen major
- ◆ Organization affiliation
- ◆ Gender
- ◆ Leadership ability
- ◆ Artistic ability
- ◆ Race, ethnicity, or cultural background
- ◆ Religious affiliation
- ◆ Parent’s work or organization affiliation
- ◆ Volunteer experience
- ◆ Military background
- ◆ Economic need

AVOID SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

- ◆ Avoid Money-Back Guarantee Scholarships
- ◆ Avoid scholarships that required a payment or credit card/bank Account Information
- ◆ Avoid unknown organizations/companies

WARNING SIGNS OF SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

- ◆ Large processing fee & small award
- ◆ Scholarship Databases that charge to register
- ◆ An announcement that you have won an award for which you have not applied
- ◆ Companies claiming to do all of the work for you in exchange for money

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP SITES

www.scholarships.com
www.fastaid.com
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.healthprofessions.ca.gov
www.carpediemfoundation.org
www.dosomething.org/brick
www.collegeprowler.com
www.eastbayconsortium.org
www.gmsp.org
www.college-scholarship.com
www.studentscholarshipsearch.com

PROGRAM SPECIFIC

www.choosenursing.com
www.minoritynurse.com
www.campusrn.com
www.discovernursing.com
www.hrsa.gov
www.oshpd.ca.gov
www.apta.org (PT)
www.aotf.org (OT)
www.pa-foundation.org (PA)
www.aawpinc.com (DPM)
http://anp-foundation.org (FNP)

POPULATION SPECIFIC

www.pointfoundation.org (LGBTQ)
www.uncf.org (African American)
www.naacp.org (African American)
www.schoolsoup.com (African American)
www.collegefund.org (Native American)
www.ihs.gov (Native American)
www.uspaacc.com (Asian American)
www.latinocollegedollars.org (Latina/o)
www.hsf.net (Hispanic & Latina/o)
www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org (Hispanic)
www.nhmafoundation.org (Hispanic)
www.aauw.org (Women)
www.malenursingscholarships.com (Men)
www.mass.gov (Veterans)
www.military.com/scholarship (Veterans)



SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES



**For more information please contact
the Financial Aid Office.**

Financial Aid Office
Samuel Merritt University
3100 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 1110
Oakland, CA 94609
Tel. (510) 869-1550 Fax (510) 869-1529
finaid@samuelmerritt.edu

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.

Letter's 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.

A guide to applying for Scholarships



◆ 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

Try to find a 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 application.

Check your application forms and essays for correct spelling and grammar usage.

◆ Ask someone else to proofread your application.

◆ Type your application.

◆ Keep copy of your application and materials.

