**Scholarship Tips**

**1) Remember that the biggest scholarships come directly from schools you’ve applied to where you are above average compared to other applicants *for that specific school*.**

* When people hear the term “scholarships for college” they usually assume the scholarships were applied to and earned from different businesses and organizations, which is what these directions refer to.
* **But the most generous, reliable source of “free” scholarship money** that requires the least amount of effort to apply for **is usually “merit scholarship” directly from** **“safety” schools** for that student.
* Many colleges will want to make sure you have completed the[**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa) to exhaust your options for need-based financial aidprior to being considered for any scholarship funds. Some colleges also require completion of the [CSS Profile](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/) as an additional financial aid form.

2) **Make a plan to reserve time each week to search and apply** for outside college scholarships from businesses and organizations, and stick to it. Think of it as a part-time job: if you spend 10 hours win $500, you just earned $50 an hour!

3) **Start as locally as possible - the less competition the better**

* Ask your own family and their network about opportunities in your hometown or with any organizations or companies they work for or are associated with.
* **Ask anywhere you may have volunteered or worked.** Even if those organizations don't offer anything, the people you ask might have other ideas for you.
* **Check Naviance regularly for the scholarship list (it is updated through the year)** – many of the scholarships listed are very local (CB East specific, or in the Doylestown area)
* **Check local chapters of non-profits or community foundations** (most U.S. counties have foundations that provide scholarship money, or chapters of organizations like Rotary, Kiwanis, Boys & Girls Club, etc).

4) **Explore scholarship list websites that don’t require a sign-in.** Filter categories (age, location, interests, gender and other identities, etc). Since it doesn't require a profile or login, it shouldn't generate excess emails. Examples:

* ["Career One Stop" Scholarship finder](https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-scholarships.aspx)
* [International Scholarship Search Tool](https://www.internationalstudent.com/scholarships/search/) (Searchable without a login, must register to apply)
* [International Scholarship List from Parsons/The New School](https://files.constantcontact.com/235b8e48001/86ee474a-f905-4c28-9d36-d64769bc87c8.pdf) (Centered on creative arts but very helpful info)
* [JLV College Counseling Scholarship List](https://jlvcollegecounseling.com/scholarships/)

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| 5) After exhausting all of the above options, **explore scholarship search websites that require creating a profile**. This ensures you'll get more relevant, personalized scholarship emails - but be prepared for a lot of email spam since these organizations like to collect and sell off your contact information. **Some include:**   * [Bold.org](http://bold.org/) * [Cappex Scholarship List](https://www.cappex.com/scholarships) * [**College Board**](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search) * [Going Merry](https://www.goingmerry.com/) * [**Fastweb**](https://www.fastweb.com/) * [IEFA International Scholarship Search Tool](https://www.iefa.org/scholarships) * [Peterson's](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx) * [Raise.Me](http://raise.me/) (More like a scholarship predictor/estimator for specific schools) * [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com/) * [TFS Scholarships](https://www.tuitionfundingsources.com/registration/) * [Unigo](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships) |  |

**GENERAL TIPS:**

* Create and use an email address specifically for the college process/scholarships
* NEVER PAY to apply for scholarships! (It's probably a scam!) (Note – there is a fee to file the CSS Profile)
* The vast majority of scholarships are around $500 - $1,000 or so per year, and have a need-based component (so they may require your FAFSA and/or family income information).
* Colleges and universities might reduce their own financial aid if you bring outside scholarships to them, so contact each institution you're interested in to ask (most scholarship organizations will not give you the money directly, they will deliver it directly to the school on your behalf).
* Due dates are usually January - April senior year for the majority of scholarships