

Scholarship Basics

A **scholarship** is financial support awarded to a student, based on academic achievement or other criteria, for the purpose of schooling.



Types of Scholarships:

- **School-sponsored scholarships** are affiliated with or provided by individual colleges and universities. Although they may also be funded by private individuals or foundations, they are restricted to students of a particular school (and sometimes of a particular major), and students must usually apply through the school. Most scholarship money tends to come from this source.
 - **External scholarships** are awards funded by private groups, including individual donors, businesses, non-profits, foundations and other organizations. They are not typically affiliated with or restricted to students from a particular school.
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- ✓ **Academic achievement:** Many scholarships are based on grades, GPA, SAT/ACT scores or other academic merits. Commonly referred to as a “Merit Scholarship”.
 - ✓ **Demographic:** Scholarships target students of a certain demographic, such as women or minorities.
 - ✓ **Needs-Based:** Scholarships give funds to students who demonstrate financial need. There is usually a specific process to provide evidence of need. Academic performance or other attributes are also typically considered for these scholarships.
 - ✓ **Career, Major, or Industry:** Scholarships are granted to students pursuing degrees in certain fields. Certain businesses might offer scholarships to marketing students, for instance. Computer science students might receive this type of scholarship from technology-related companies. Other scholarships in this category are government-sponsored to promote enrollment in such fields as education, nursing, or pre-medicine.
 - ✓ **Athletic:** Scholarships are given to stand-out athletes in specific sports. Colleges can only give athletic scholarships if they are Division I or Division II.
 - ✓ **Community Service:** Scholarships are given for actively participating in community service activities as a high school student.
 - ✓ **Job Sponsored:** Some scholarships are available because of where you or your parent work.

General Tips:

- When applying, keep in mind that every scholarship will have its own required applications materials. Applications may require things like essays, transcripts, letters or recommendation, an interview, etc.
- Consider applying to scholarships that have a limited pool of applicants. For example, if you apply to a scholarship that is only available to students in Burlington County, you have a better chance of winning than if you apply to one that is nationwide.

FAQ:

When do I apply for scholarships?

That depends on each scholarship's deadline. In general, senior year is a good time to start seriously looking.

How do I apply for scholarships?

Each scholarship has its own requirements. The scholarship's website or application should give you an idea of who qualifies for the scholarship and how to apply. Make sure you read the application carefully, fill it out completely, and meet the application deadline.

What are my chances of receiving a scholarship?

This depends largely upon the scholarship, how well you meet qualifications and the level of effort that you exert in your search. Typically, if you can find scholarships that are limited to students within a state, city, sport or academic area, you have a better chance of winning.

How does the scholarship provider choose a winner?

Each scholarship provider is looking for different skills or interests. A winner must meet all of the standard criteria required for the scholarship but also distinguish himself from the rest of the applicants. Read about the scholarship and try to determine what exactly the scholarship provider is looking for so that you can emphasize your related qualities in you essay or cover letter.

Scholarship MUST DO's

- ∞ **Avoid scholarship scams: Reputable scholarships will never charge you to apply.**
- ∞ **Fill out your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Many colleges will not give scholarships to student who fail to complete a FAFSA.**
- ∞ **Check the Cherokee website at <https://www.lrhhsd.org/scholarships> for posted scholarships opportunities.**
- ∞ **Fill out a "Local Awards Application", which is available in December online or at the Counseling Center.**