

How to Find and Search for Scholarships

1. Use Online Scholarship Search Engines

Start with trusted platforms:

- Scholarships.com
- Fastweb
- Bold.org
- College Board's BigFuture
- U.S. Department of Labor's Free Scholarship Search Tool

Create a profile with your academic history, interests, background & financial need

3. Prepare Application Materials

Most applications require:

- A completed application form
- A personal statement or essay
- Letters of recommendation
- Transcripts and a summary of academic achievements

Tips for Success:

- Start early and give your recommenders at least 2-3 weeks notice
- Tailor your essay to each scholarship's prompt and proofread carefully
- Keep a student resume handy to help streamline applications

5. Stay Organized & Apply Strategically

- Create a spreadsheet or checklist to apply early, track deadlines and requirements
- Don't overlook smaller awards. They can add up and may have less competition
- Prioritize scholarships that aligns with your interests, identity or goals

2. Tailor Your Search

Scholarships tailored to your circumstances:

- **Academic scholarships**
 - Awarded for academic excellence and leadership in extracurriculars
- **Need-Based Scholarships**
 - Based on financial need; often require FAFSA® information
- **Field-Specific Scholarships**
 - Look for scholarships related to Animals, Agriculture or Engineering
- **Industry-Specific Career Organizations**
 - Many state or national professional organizations have scholarships for members
- **Unique Scholarships**
 - Based on unusual traits, hobbies or affiliations(e.g. being tall or a chess player)

4. Local Scholarships

Local scholarships are less competitive:

- Reach out to local businesses, your high school guidance office, civic groups, and community clubs
- Check local news outlets or libraries for scholarship announcements

TL;DR

- Use trustworthy sources
- Local scholarships are more accessible and have less competition
- Get more accurate results with a search specific to you
- Have application materials ready to go
- Keep track of all scholarships and deadlines