

Creating a Scholarship Search Plan

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- Never rule out a school because of cost alone
- “College may seem expensive. But the truth is that most students pay less than their college’s sticker price, or published price, thanks to financial aid. So instead of looking at the published price, concentrate on your net price — the real price you’ll pay for a college.”

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/focus-on-net-price-not-sticker-price>

Sticker Price Shock

- Can be found on college's websites
- Provides your family with a customized estimate of your net price for that college
- Your net price for a college is the full cost of attendance minus your gift aid. Gift aid includes grants and scholarships (*focus of tonight!*). While you can see what academic merit scholarship your student is currently eligible for, you will not know grant amounts until after you complete the FAFSA (available January 1).
 - [How to Get the Best Estimate of Your College Costs](#)
 - [Net Price versus Sticker Price](#)

Net Price Calculators

- Government
- College
- Outside scholarships *(all the rest & the focus of this presentation!)*

What kinds of scholarships are there?

- “Outside scholarships — those given by an organization that isn’t your college or the federal government — will most likely be a small part of your college money but can help meet costs.”

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/where-to->

[find-college-scholarships](#)

What kinds of scholarships are there?

- Scholarships are *FREE* money that you don't have to pay back!
- Ask each college's financial aid office about their outside scholarship policy.
 - "Outside scholarships are considered resources, meaning that they reduce your financial aid package dollar for dollar."
 - "Federal rules...require the school to reduce the financial aid package when the sum of financial aid from all sources exceeds the school's cost of education by more than \$300."

www.finaid.org/scholarships/outside.phtml

How do scholarships help pay for college?

What this means...

- **Scholarship money may be applied to any of the following:** unmet need, loans, work-study, and expected family contribution, but may also reduce grants, or scholarships from the college.
 - “Many schools will work with the family to reduce the impact of the outside scholarship policy if the family is up front about reporting any outside scholarships.”
 - “If your outside scholarship will result in an overaward, consider asking the sponsor to defer all or part of the award to a future year to allow it to offset a future year’s loans.”

www.finaid.org/scholarships/outside.phtml

How do scholarships help pay for college?

- Academic achievement, leadership potential, artistic talents, athletic ability, career plans, field of study, or special hobbies or interests
- “Figure out what makes you a special individual. This may include such things as academics, volunteer work, athletics, or your family background.”

http://www.accesscollege.org/schools/nt/juniors/documents/College_Prep_Handbook_2010_2011.pdf (p. 54)

What can my student get a scholarship for?

- “Consider unique circumstances or conditions...such as having asthma..., or having a disability.”

http://www.accesscollege.org/schools/nt/juniors/documents/College_Prep_Handbook_2010_2011.pdf (p. 54)

- State of residence, religion, ethnic background, disability, military status, employer and membership organizations.
- **Take time brainstorming and don't overlook anything – the more personal characteristics you discover, the more scholarships you could potentially apply for.**

What can my student get a scholarship for?

- Research local scholarships first!
 - [The Wash Board](#)
 - [Washington Opportunity Pathways](#)
 - Local organizations *(community organizations, foundations, corporations, and local branches of organizations like Rotary and Kiwanis ... department stores, grocers, credit unions and banks, your church or denomination - many offer scholarships annually)*
- Visit the [SCS College & Career Center](#) website for scholarships sent to the school

Where can my student find scholarships?

- Use a scholarship guide at the Public Library
- Check membership organizations (*religious, community service, fraternal, union, professional, etc.*)
- Check parent and student employers
- Use a free scholarship search service
 - ❑ US Dept of Labor's Scholarship Search
 - ❑ Sallie May Scholarship Search
 - ❑ College Board Scholarship Search

Where can my student find scholarships?

- Remember college (*institutional, not outside*) scholarships!
 - Since the vast majority of all scholarship money is disbursed by colleges, it makes sense to research what kinds of scholarships are available at the colleges that interest you. Check out college websites, catalogs and financial aid offices for this information. **Institutional awards can be offered on a university-wide basis, or within a particular college or major. Eligibility for such awards can be based on merit, financial need, intended major, ethnicity or a variety of other factors.**

See <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/scholarships-and-aid/8936.html>

Where can my student find scholarships?

- You should never have to pay for scholarship information. If you're asked to pay a fee for 'exclusive' scholarship leads, there's a good chance your scholarship service is really a scam.

To learn more about avoiding scholarship scams, see: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/how-to-spot-scholarship-scams>

WARNING!

“The scholarship application process is very similar to the college application process. First, you filter a large list of possible choices into a focused list that matches your needs. Then you create compelling applications that are supported by your achievements, essays, recommendations and interviews.”

How does my student apply for scholarships?

Basic Tips for Students:

- Read eligibility requirements carefully
- Keep scholarship materials organized
- Keep a calendar of application deadlines
- Proofread applications carefully
- Follow all instructions
- Keep a copy of the submitted application
- **Apply early!!**

See

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/scholarships-and-aid/8937.html>

for more details!

How does my student apply for scholarships?

It is true:

- You likely won't hear anything if you *don't* get the scholarship.
- It takes time to apply, especially for the higher \$ scholarships.
- Most students apply for way more scholarships than they are awarded.

BUT:

- There is potential to lower the amount of loans or even expected family contribution, depending on school policy.
- Winning a scholarship is a big payout per hour spent completing the application!

Is it worth it to apply for scholarships?