



Getting started with possible criteria:

Level of schooling	College selected	Major chosen
Grades/GPA	Gender	Race/Minority group
Artistic/athletic ability	Leadership	Pell Eligibility
Religious affiliation	Union membership	Workplace
Organization Affiliation	Military background/Veterans	Special need & disabilities
LGBTQ	Health condition	

1. **College/University:** Each school has a variety of awards, some specifically for freshman students, others that relate to specific majors, etc. Check the financial aid or scholarship page on the school website.
 - a. **External scholarships: this information is for everyone, not just their own students**
2. **Local organizations/Affiliations of workplace:** including church, local Kiwanis, Rotary Club, business organizations, Chamber of Commerce, fraternal group, athletic boosters, parents club, civic groups; check with the HR department at parent/grandparent’s place of employment; contact veteran’s group; union membership; Junior Woman’s League; etc.
 - a. **Cleveland Foundation: offers one application for multiple scholarships!**
3. **Scholarship Databases:** there are tons of scholarship databases where contains thousands of scholarship opportunities that are waiting for students to apply. Make sure the website is legitimate to apply before giving out any personal information. Most of them will require you to create an account to use their free resources and each of them will offer some unique features, such as subscription for monthly scholarship posts. Choose to use 1-2 sites that you prefer at a time.
 - a. **College Now also have own scholarship database, but we don’t affiliate with any of them. Contact their own providers for specific information.**
4. **Uniqueness makes you stand out of the group:** scholarships that have less requirements are always competitive across the nation. Instead, seek out scholarships that are tailored to your future professional interests, hobbies, ethnicity, religion, and family circumstances.
 - a. Medical condition; cancer survivor; minority in STEM major; etc.
 - b. Professional organizations frequently sponsor scholarships: www.careeronestop.org for more professional organizations



Note:

1. No scholarships are guaranteed. Be aware of that not all offers come without a cost even when they were listed as being free. It’s a time-consuming project that you need to be prepared for organizing the deadlines and spending tons of time on searching and applying as well.
2. A deadline is deadline. In order to submit all materials on time, work ahead of schedule. Best estimate the time to gather those required documents before deadline.



The Top 4 places to search for scholarships

3. The essay is your opportunity to separate yourself from the rest of the applicant pool. The more unique you can express yourself, the more likelihood you can win votes from selection committee.
4. Possible documents needed: Student Aid Report; financial aid award letter; high school or college transcript; college class schedules; recommendation letters; any art works related to the competing subjects.



Tips:

1. Create a new Gmail account just for the scholarship searching; avoid scam and be organized
2. Don't forget about the small scholarships. Don't hesitate to apply any scholarships, even if you are only 80% eligible for!
3. Utilize school's writing center or online tools for proof-reading
4. If you craft a well written essay, it's likely that you'll be able to use it for multiple scholarship applications; just be careful if you mention the name of the scholarship!



Warning:

1. Don't pay for scholarships
2. Be very careful and cautious about providing your personal information to any online sources; any personal information that you provide, may be shared with third parties for other purposes.
3. To renew your scholarship, make sure to maintain your GPA within the eligibility, etc.

Dedicated scholarship databases: may require students to register and supply personal information. Be careful about what information you supply; no sensitive information should be given.

<i>These sites were recommended because they don't sell info. to colleges or other vendors: (Trusted)</i>	<i>Scholarship database for minorities group: (Dedicated)</i>
1. College Board	1. United Negro College Fund
2. FastWeb	2. The Jackie Robinson Foundation
3. Peterson's	3. Gates Millennium Scholars
4. Scholarship Monkey	4. Ron Brown Scholars Program
5. Scholarship.com	5. Hispanic Scholarship Fund
6. Unigo Scholarship Match	6. Esperanza, Inc.
<i>Local scholarships with no income requirements:</i>	7. Japanese American Citizens League
Maltz Museum	8. APIA Scholars
Alpha Kappa Alpha Scholarship	9. Organization of Chinese Americans
Spangenberg Law Firm	10. Association on American Indian Affairs
LGBT Community Center of Cleveland	11. Foster Care to Success
ABB, INC Engineering Scholarship	12. UMPS Care
Nordson Corporation	13. National Youth Transitions Center