

# SCHOLARSHIPS

It's not easy to obtain scholarships, but qualified students who invest the time and energy often find that their efforts pay off handsomely.

## TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS



### ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Most academic scholarships are awarded by individual colleges to students with high GPAs (3.5+) and high ACT/SAT scores.



### ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

To receive an athletic scholarship, athletes must meet NCAA or NAIA eligibility requirements. For information, go to [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org) or [playnaia.org](http://playnaia.org).



### TALENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships in music, art, theater, and dance are mostly awarded by individual colleges. Portfolios or auditions are often required.



### LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Local groups and organizations offer scholarships for the students in their communities. These scholarships are usually smaller, but easier to get.



### MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Colleges offer these scholarships to encourage outstanding minority students to attend their college. Contact colleges for information.

## Tips for Getting Scholarships

**Start early.** It takes a lot of time and effort to apply for scholarships. Give yourself plenty of time.

**Look for renewable scholarships.** A one-year scholarship is for one-year only, but a renewable scholarship can become a four-year scholarship.

**Be aware of deadlines.** Give counselors and teachers plenty of time to prepare materials and write letters of recommendation.

**Be a stand out.** When awarding scholarships, colleges and organizations often look for students with a "hook" – something that makes them stand out (e.g., special talent, noteworthy achievement, unique characteristic). Promote the things that set you apart from the crowd.

**Network.** Tell everyone, including your school counselor, family, and family friends, that you're looking for scholarships.

*Most financial aid is not awarded in the form of a scholarship. Pursue all financial aid opportunities.*

## Scholarship Resources

You can search online for scholarships based on academic achievement, religious affiliation, racial heritage, proposed major, and more.

To find scholarships you qualify for, check out the following websites:

[scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)  
[studentaid.ed.gov/scholarship](http://studentaid.ed.gov/scholarship)  
[bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)  
[fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)