



# Tips for scholarship award success

You may think scholarships are only for athletes and students who are at or near the top of their class. That's true in some cases, but did you know there are scholarships out there for almost every skill and interest? The challenge is finding the right one for you. It may take time to explore scholarships, but the rewards can be well worth the effort!

## Here are some areas you may be eligible for a scholarship:

- Academic achievement
- Financial need
- Community involvement
- Membership in an organization
- Participation in sports
- Talents or skills
- Leadership/school activities
- Ethnicity
- Religious affiliation
- Parent affiliation with work, clubs, or activities

## Scholarships can come from many places:

- Community organizations
- Federal and state agencies
- Individual colleges
- Religious organizations
- Employers
- Libraries
- Private organizations or major companies

## Using an online scholarship search engine can help you get matched to scholarships. Only use sites that are free!

Sallie Mae® Scholarship Search provides free access to more than six million scholarships worth up to \$30 billion.

- Find college scholarships that match your skills, activities, and interests based on the profile you create.
- Set up customized alerts to notify you when a new scholarship that matches your profile becomes available.

To access this free scholarship search tool, visit [SallieMae.com/SS](https://SallieMae.com/SS).



## As you search for scholarships, keep these basics in mind:

- Each scholarship will have its own set of eligibility criteria and application requirements.
- Each opportunity will have its own application deadline.
- You may be required to write an essay, pass a written exam, or complete a project demonstrating your potential in order to be considered.
- Programs may specify how scholarship funds must be used.
- Scholarship funds may be paid directly to the college.
- Failure to meet certain requirements could jeopardize your ability to keep the scholarship.

## Tips for scholarship award success

### When you're ready to apply, make sure you've done your best:

- Be organized.
- Be honest.
- Follow instructions.
- Include strong recommendations.
- Create a lasting impression with your personal essay.
- Remember that neatness, spelling, and grammar counts.



Your scholarship essay is your best chance to make a real impression on the scholarship committee. Make sure to give it your best shot:

- The essay should convey your background, experiences, ambitions, and personality.
- Start early and allow yourself plenty of time to write—and rewrite—the essay.
- Organize your thoughts in an outline before you start writing.
- Create a strong introduction, supporting arguments, and an appropriate conclusion for your essay.
- Ask your family and friends for feedback.
- Your first draft should never be your last. Put the essay aside for a day and then read it with fresh eyes. Then do some rewriting to make it even stronger.
- Proofread, proofread, proofread!

Stay organized, keep an eye on deadlines, and allow enough time to complete all of the required elements for the application. You may be surprised at how much free money you might find to help pay for college!



**Learn more at [SallieMae.com/Scholarships](https://www.SallieMae.com/Scholarships)**

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