

Scholarship Resource Packet



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General Scholarship Information

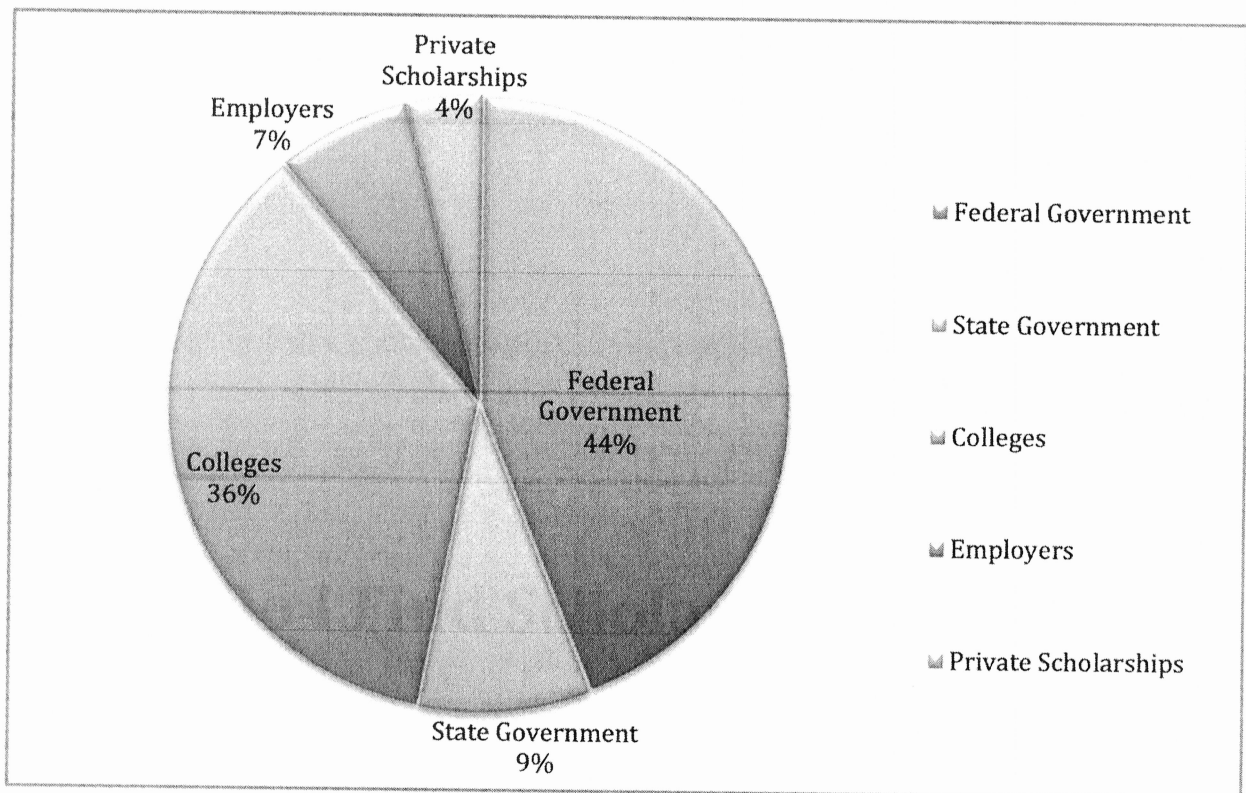
Nothing beats free money for college! The more free money you can get your hands on, the better! However, you'll have to put in some work if you want scholarship organizations to send some of that free money your way!

Here is some general scholarship information to keep in mind:

1. **Watch for deadlines:** Unlike college application deadlines that are typically the 1st, 15th, or last day of a month starting in October, scholarship deadlines can vary and be all over the place. Make sure to stay organized and know when things are due and how to request/submit them (see #2).
2. **Request materials well in advance.** Each scholarship may ask for different things (letters of recommendations, transcripts) from other people – teachers, counselors, the registrar. These things can take time to be completed, so you **MUST REQUEST ITEMS 10-15 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE OF A DEADLINE.** Failure to give this much time may result in your request being unable to be fulfilled.
 - a. **Official Transcript:** Fill out a gold transcript request for in the CCC and give it to our registrar, Mrs. Schwichtenberg. Make sure to include HOW it should be sent (email, snail mail address in an envelope, etc.).
 - b. **Unofficial Transcript:** You can download this yourself from your Infinite Campus account to a PDF.
 - c. **Letters of Recommendation:**
 - i. Teacher: Fill out the Teacher Recommendation Form available in the CCC or online here: <https://jhhs.d214.org/students/teacher-letter-of-recommendation/>
 - ii. Counselor: Fill out the “Counselor Rec Survey” in your Naviance account
3. **Keep checking.** New scholarships come out all the time, so check your email, Naviance, etc. regularly to see what new ones are available.
4. **Don't get discouraged.** Some scholarships have hundreds – or thousands – of applicants! Keep at it even if you feel like you'll never get picked. You can't be chosen if you don't apply.
5. **Respond in an appropriate and timely manner.** If you are contacted about a next step, such as an interview, make sure to respond as directed. Don't miss a chance at free money because you didn't reply to an email or voicemail!
6. **Follow through.** If you are awarded a scholarship, congrats! Make sure to thank the organization and follow the next steps they tell you in order to receive your money. This could be to send them the name of the college you will be attending, provide proof of enrollment, or providing the address that you want the check sent to.

For more information, visit the JHHS Scholarship website at:
<https://jhhs.d214.org/students/scholarship-resources/>

Where Do I Find Scholarships & Grants?



1. U.S. and State Governments

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov to qualify for Federal, State, and college grants and scholarships. The FAFSA also qualifies you for work study jobs and student loans.
- File between October 1st and November 30th of senior year when funds available are the greatest.
- If you are ineligible for the FAFSA, you may be eligible for state aid by filing the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid at: <https://studentportal.isac.org/en/alternativeapp>

2. Colleges

- Check each of your college's web pages for:
 - Automatic Scholarships
 - Competitive Scholarships
- Colleges have early scholarship deadlines! Look as soon as you finish applications.

3. Employers

Ask about scholarships from your:

- Employer or parents' employers
- Your family's labor, trade unions or professional organizations

4. Local Scholarships

- Funded by local businesses, individuals, and nonprofit groups
- Access the local scholarship list in Naviance:
 - In Naviance Student, click on the **Colleges** tab
 - Scroll down to **Scholarships and Money**
 - Click on **Scholarship List** for a list of local scholarships
 - Sort this updated list of local scholarships by due dates to research and apply for scholarships due in the next few months. Scholarships with no listed website have paper applications available in the College Career Center.

5. National Search Engines

- In Naviance Student, click on the **Colleges** tab and scroll down to select **Scholarships and Money** and then select **National Scholarship Search**. Answer a quick survey to be matched with scholarships from across the country.
- Use other trusted national scholarship search engines, such as:
www.fastweb.com <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
www.finaid.org www.hispanicfund.org

6. @LifeAfterHersey Social Media Sites

- TONS of scholarships, or scholarship reminders, are shared on the 4 @LiftAfterHersey social media sites: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat. Find and follow us for all kinds of great information!

Your Scholarship & Grant Timetable:

- **By Nov. 1 of Senior Year:** Finish college applications
- **October 1:** File the FAFSA between October 1st and Thanksgiving!
- As soon as college applications are finished → College Scholarships
- Whenever you have time → Local, Employer and National Scholarships

*****You must request letters of recommendation and/or transcripts from teachers/counselors/our registrar AT LEAST 10 business/school days in advance of a scholarship deadline (15 days preferred). Any requests after that are not guaranteed to be fulfilled.*****

BEWARE of Scholarship Scams:



"For a small application or handling fee..."

"You can't get this information anywhere else"

"You're a finalist in a scholarship contest..." (that you never entered)

"You are guaranteed to win a scholarship or we will pay you back"

"Free Seminars on Financial Aid" that are sales pitches for overpriced consulting

If you have to pay money for a scholarship or it sounds too good to be true... it probably is!

12 Tips on Winning a Scholarship

What if you had all the secrets to winning a scholarship? Would you tell the world — or keep them for yourself? Nationally recognized financial aid and scholarship expert, Mark Kantrowitz, *does* have all the secrets, and fortunately, he's spilling everything he knows.

Kantrowitz has provided Fastweb with the top 12 tips on winning a scholarship:

1. Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. Don't wait until spring of your senior year in high school to start searching, or you'll miss half the deadlines. There are many scholarships available to students in grades 9, 10 and 11, not just high school seniors. **Continue searching for scholarships even after you are enrolled in college.**
2. Answer all of the optional questions on a scholarship matching web site for about twice as many matches.
3. Use a free scholarship matching service like Fastweb.com. The Fastweb database is updated daily, and the site will email you notifications of new scholarships that match your personal background profile.
4. Look for local scholarships on bulletin boards near the guidance counselor or financial aid offices, or the library's jobs and careers section.
5. Apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. Pursue less competitive scholarships, such as small awards and essay contests, since they are easier to win and the money adds up and helps you win bigger scholarships.
6. Don't miss deadlines. Use a calendar and checklist to get organized.
7. Tailor your application to the sponsor's goals. Read and follow the instructions carefully.
8. If you have difficulty writing essays, try recording yourself as you answer the question out loud, and transcribe the recording later. Most people can think and speak faster than they can write or type. Create an outline afterward to organize your thoughts.
9. Personalize your essay and be passionate. Write about something of interest to you. Make your application stand out from the crowd. Talk about your impact on other people. Give examples and be specific.
10. Google your name and make sure you have a professional online profile. Use a professional email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com. Clean up the content of your social media accounts, removing inappropriate and immature material.
11. Proofread a printed copy of your essay and the application for spelling and grammar errors.
12. Make a photocopy of your application before mailing it. Send the application by certified mail, return receipt requested or with delivery confirmation.

Common Scholarship Essay Questions

Want to get a head start on scholarship essays? Here are some common questions that are asked. Save your responses to Google drive, etc. and edit as needed for different scholarships!

1. Who or what has been the biggest influence in your life? Please explain why:
2. Why do you feel you are deserving on this scholarship?
3. Discuss your plans for continuing your education:
4. List the contributions to the school and the community, which you have made throughout your lifetime. Include any volunteer experiences, organizations that you have belonged to, offices held, awards/honors you have received, etc.
5. List your work experience/activities/honors/awards (essentially a resume):
6. What is the biggest obstacle you have overcome?
7. What is your greatest personal achievement?
8. How has your involvement in _____ (activity name) impacted your life?
9. As you look to the future, what are your short and long-term goals?
10. Why are you interested in the career/major that you are planning to pursue?

General Tips:

1. Make sure to follow the instructions (word count, answer the prompt, etc.).
2. Essays are your opportunity to make yourself stand out. What is unique about you?
3. PROOFREAD! Spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. If you are reusing an essay from another scholarship, make sure to change the name of the college, scholarship organization, etc.

Scholarship Nomination Form

Given the schools on your college list, we think you may be one of several students interested in the _____ scholarship. If you would like to be considered by our scholarship committee, please complete the form below on or before _____ and return to Agnes Knott in the College Career Center. The Scholarship Committee will consider this information to select our school nominee(s) for this scholarship.

Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Weighted GPA: _____ Unweighted GPA: _____ ACT: _____ SAT: _____

Post-high school plans: ☐ Vocational School ☐ 2 year School ☐ 4 year School

Intended Major: _____
(It is o.k. to say "undecided", but give us a few ideas of your favorite subjects)

Intended Career: _____
(Again, it is o.k. to say "undecided", but tell us what you are considering)

Attach an activities resume OR complete the form below:

1) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th

Leadership Title(s): _____

Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____

2) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th

Leadership Title(s): _____

Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____

3) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th

Leadership Title(s): _____

Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____

4) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th

Leadership Title(s): _____

Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____

- 5) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th
Leadership Title(s): _____
Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____
- 6) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th
Leadership Title(s): _____
Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____
- 7) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th
Leadership Title(s): _____
Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____
- 8) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th
Leadership Title(s): _____
Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____
- 9) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th
Leadership Title(s): _____
Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____
- 10) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th
Leadership Title(s): _____
Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____
- 11) Name of activity/work/organization: _____
Years participated: ☐ 9th ☐ 10th ☐ 11th ☐ 12th
Leadership Title(s): _____
Honor(s)/Award(s) earned: _____