

Scholarships

Agenda



- Searching for Scholarships
- Understanding the Competition
- Writing a Winning Scholarship Essay
- Recognizing Scholarship Scams

Where to Start?

Scholarships are available through a number of different channels:

- Your School – Naviance, College & Career Center
- Private Organizations & Companies – SMCU Early 2017
- A family member's workplace, company, or organization
- Scholarship websites – Good Call, Fast Web, SMCU Blog, & Carlmont Website
- The college you'll attend – "Institutional Scholarships"

Meeting the Eligibility

Some scholarships are geared toward a particular population while others are open to all; regardless of who that group is, you can **always** ask if they will accept applications from a “non-traditional” applicant.

Example:

The SMCU 2017 Educational Scholarship Program

Requirement: Cumulative High School GPA of 3.0

How to Narrow it Down

Many websites like Good Call and Fast Web have thousands of scholarship opportunities – but as you’ve probably experienced, some of the postings are better than others.

If you’ve used either of these websites,
what have you done to filter your search results?

The Search Begins Now

While some scholarships are offered year round, there are seasons.

- Fall Scholarship Deadlines – receive money in the Spring
- Spring Scholarships – receive money in the Summer or Fall

There are a number of reasons why this is important

Local and National Awards

Winning a scholarship can feel like a challenging feat but there are a number of things you can do to better your chances:

1. Apply for Local, Small scholarships
2. Plan (way) ahead for National competitions

Confidence

Competing for a scholarship can be stressful but if you don't believe you can win, you won't! Your application speaks to the readers:

- We know when you don't think you deserve it
- We know when you've reused or repurposed an essay
- We know when you've cut corners or were rushed

How to Write a Winning Essay

Answer. The. Prompt.

Scholarship Scams

As a soon-to-be graduate, a world of financial opportunities and responsibilities are near. You may have just gotten your first bank account, credit card, or your first college loan.

- Never pay for access to scholarship applications or funds
- If you get a phone call about winning a scholarship you didn't apply for, **do not** answer any personal questions
- **NEVER give bank account information to anyone over the phone**