

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**What is a scholarship?**

A scholarship is gift money that you don’t have to pay back.

**What kind of student can get a scholarship?**

All kinds of students are eligible for scholarships! You can find scholarships awarded for:

Academic merit (GPA and/or ACT score)

Athletics

Community service and volunteerism

Race, ethnic, or cultural heritage

First-generation (Usually students whose parents/legal guardians have not finished college)

Parent’s work (some employers give scholarships to children of employees; the military gives scholarships to children of veterans)

Talents or skills (music, fine arts, athletic scholarships)

Career goals

**Where do scholarships come from?**

**College scholarships** – most scholarships come from colleges. You can find out about what scholarships are offered by looking at a college’s website, catalog, and financial aid materials. When you submit a FAFSA form, the college automatically considers you for some scholarships. For others, you may have to apply—make sure you are aware of deadlines and requirements.

**Outside scholarships** – smaller scholarships given by organizations that aren’t the college or the federal government. These will probably not be as large as college or government grants or scholarships, but they can help meet costs. Here are some places you can look for these types of awards:

**Local scholarships**– these can come from churches or religious groups, local branches of organizations like the Rotary Club or Kiwanis, or your or your parents’ employer• State scholarships – almost every state has a scholarship program for residents, and the awards are usually limited to students who will attend college in that same state

**National scholarships** – nearly every major corporation has some type of scholarship program. Examples include scholarships sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Gates Millennium Scholars, Intel Science Talent Search, Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program

**Use outside scholarships to help pay for college**

A good portion of your college education can be funded by outside scholarships. These can come from anywhere including Wal-Mart, Coca-Cola, or Best Buy. Nearly every major corporation has some type of scholarship program.

**Where can I find information about these scholarships?**

EVERY student applying to college needs an account at www.fastweb.com. This site allows you to fill out a short profile and then gives you a list of hundreds of scholarships for which you are eligible. Some are academic-based, some are simple essay scholarships, and others are based off of community service or leadership qualities.

**Is it worth the time I will have to take to apply for all these scholarships?**

Absolutely! You are looking at the difference between going to school for free or close to it, and paying off student loans until you’re 40.

**When are scholarship deadlines?**

Most scholarship deadlines for the fall semester range from December to mid-March.  Each scholarship deadline is different so pay close attention to the application. Be sure to apply early so you do not have to wait till the last minute. This will ensure that you do a good job on each application.

**Scholarship Opportunities**

Scholarships can be found on hundreds of websites and for millions of different things. You can get a scholarship for writing a story, playing video games, taking a picture and the list goes on and on. That’s not even the best part of a scholarship. They are free. Scholarships are granted based on certain needs, experiences, talents and skill. So, consider them a gift for everything you have accomplished and use them to go even further. Below you will find some great scholarship hunting websites! Be sure to get a jump-start on the search because so many people can be competing for the same scholarship and there are deadlines!

**Here are some scholarships that can get you started:**

**Microsoft Scholarships**

<http://careers.microsoft.com/careers/en/us/internships-scholarships.aspx>

**All-Ink Scholarships**

<http://www.all-ink.com/scholarship.aspx>

**Wal-Mart Scholarships**

[http://foundation.walmart.com/our-focus/educationwww.walmartstores.com](http://foundation.walmart.com/our-focus/education)

**KFC Colonel’s Scholars**

[www.kfcscholars.com](http://www.kfcscholars.org/)

**Free Scholarship Search Websites**

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

[www.finaid.org/scholarships/](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com/)

[http://GIBillExpress.com](http://gibillexpress.com/)

<http://www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch/>

[www.findtuition.com](http://www.findtuition.com/)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com/)

[www.scholarships.com/](http://www.scholarships.com/)

<http://www.alcollegescholarships.com/search_results2_nav.aspx?type=9,Other%20Affiliation>

**Alabama GI Dependents’ Educational Benefit Program**

Must be the child, stepchild, spouse or remarried widow of an eligible disabled Alabama veteran and be an undergraduate or graduate student at an Alabama public college. Five standard academic years or part-time equivalent at any Alabama state-supported institution of higher learning or a prescribed course of study at any Alabama state-supported technical school without payment of any tuition, required textbooks or instructional fees for eligible dependents  Contact:  County veterans service officer or Alabama Dept. of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 1509, Montgomery, AL  36102-1509 or call 334-242-5077 or go to [www.va.state.al.us](http://www.va.state.al.us/)

**Freedom Alliance Scholarship**

Must be dependent son or daughter of a U.S. Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Guardsman, or marine who has become permanently disabled, has been killed in action, or who has been classified as Missing in Action or Prisoner of War. Currently in their senior year of high school, a high school graduate, or a full time undergraduate student. Must be under the age of 26 at the time of the application

[https://apply.fascholarship.com](https://apply.fascholarship.com/)

**Hispanic Scholarship Fund**

Must be of Hispanic heritage with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Must also plan to enroll in an accredited, 4-year, not-for-profit university. Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, DACA or eligible non-citizen who has completed the FAFSA. If applicable, applicants need to have completed the Dream Act financial aid application. Go to [http://www.hispanicfund.org](http://www.hispanicfund.org/).

Deadline: March 30, 2016

**Wendy’s High School Heisman Award**

Must be a 2011-2012 senior with at least a “B” average (3.0) and must participate in at least one of the 27 sports officially sanctioned by the National Federation of State High Schools.

<http://www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com/>

**Live Mas Scholarship**

Must be a legal resident of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, between 16 and 24 years of age. Applicants must be on track to apply for accredited post-high school/post-secondary educational programs (including accredited two-and four-year colleges, universities, vocational-technical and trade schools). Looking for creators, innovators, and dreamers. Must create and submit a video (2 min or less) that tells us the story of your life's passion (could be an animation).

https://www.livemasscholarship.com/#home

**Prudential Spirit of Community Awards**

Must be grades 5-12, and have performed volunteer work over the past year. Deadline November 1. Complete the application online at [www.prudential.com/spirit](http://www.prudential.com/spirit/) and follow the instructions.

**Ron Brown Scholars Program**

Open to African-American high school seniors who will make significant contributions to society.  Applicants must excel academically, exhibit exceptional leadership potential, participate in community service activities and demonstrate financial need.  Receive $10,000 per year of college, up to $40,000. [http://www.ronbrown.org/](https://wordpress.com/pages/www.ronbrown.org)

**Joshua David Gardner Memorial Scholarships**

Offered to undergraduate students enrolled at an HBCU between the ages of 17-25 with a minimum GPA of 2.8.

http://www.joshgardnerendowment.org/pages/scholarship-application.php

Deadline: April 20, 2016

**10 Words or Less Scholarship**

Open to anyone ages 14-25 who will be attending school during Fall 2016. Go to facebook.com/myscholarships, comment on the section titled “10 Words on Less” and answer why you deserve the $500 in 10 words or less. If you like the page; only people who have liked the page will be reviewed

Deadline: January 29, 2016

**University of Alabama Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship**

Must be first in their immediate family to attend a four-year institution. Must be Alabama resident. Must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. FAFSA must be submitted before you apply.

More information as well as the application is available at <http://scholarships.ua.edu/>.

**Auburn University Department of Chemical Engineering Scholarship**

Students must specify Pre-Engineering as their major on their Auburn application to be eligible for the department scholarship. [www.auburn.edu](http://www.auburn.edu/)

**Gettysburg STEM Scholarships**

Must be a US citizen, national, immigrant admitted as a refugee, or an immigrant admitted to the US for permanent residence and demonstrate financial need through submission of the FAFSA. Applicants must be enrolled as a full time student and intend to major in one of the following fields: Biology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, or Physics

<http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/provost/s-stem/stem-scholarship-application.dot>

**Gates Millennium Scholars Program**

Open to African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, or Hispanic American Students who have a 3.3 GPA (unweighted) or higher, have financial need, and have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities. $5,000 per year of college until graduation. Apply online at [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org/)

**Smith Scholarship Program**

Open to first generation college students. Applicants must scan in a copy of the transcript (min. average of C+) and ACT Scores or expected test dates (no min. score required). Also must write two essays (500-1000 words) one explaining your goals, and the second documenting community service or assistance to family members. Applicants must provide 3 recommendations from teachers, counselors, leader of a volunteer organization, or family members.

<http://www.smithscholarships.com/#%21founder%27s-corner>

Part 1 Due December 5, Part 2 Due January 15

**Linly Heflin Scholarship**

Must be an Alabama woman with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and a 22 on the ACT.  Must also demonstrate financial need.  Scholarship money must be for a 4 year Alabama College accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. $3000 for 4 years. Apply online at [www.linlyheflin.org](http://www.linlyheflin.org/)

**Wal-Mart Scholarships**

1.  Wal-Mart Community Scholarship - Available to non-employees of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club

2.  Wal-Mart Associate Scholarship - Available to employees of Wal-Mart

3.  WALTON Family Foundation Scholarship-Available to employees of Wal-Mart.

For complete details and eligibility go to [http://foundation.walmart.com/our-focus/educationwww.walmartstores.com](http://foundation.walmart.com/our-focus/education).

**Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship**

Must be a high school senior and plan to attend an accredited, 4-year University. Applicants must show leadership potential and demonstrate dedication to community service.  Applicants must also be a US citizen and present financial need. Must also have a minimum ACT score of 21. <http://www.jackierobinson.org/apply/applicants/>

Deadline: February 15, 2016

**Award for Excellence**

Must be a student at Ramsay High School, requires 3.0GPA and 21 ACT, along with community involvement and demonstrated leadership skills. This award is made to one male and one female senior.

**Community Foundation Scholarship**

Open to students at any high school in the Birmingham School System with a 3.0 GPA and 21 ACT score.

The Cromwell Trust Scholarship

Open to aspiring students and adults for career advancement and/or education, primarily in the performing arts and musical theater; requires artistic submission.

Deadline is March 31st, 2016.

**HICA Scholarship Fund**

Open to Latino youth who are immigrants or children of immigrants, interested in pursing a post-secondary education at a two-year, four-year or technical school. Applicants must demonstrate financial need and show a commitment to community involvement. Applicants must also live in one of the following counties: Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, Walker or St. Clair.

Requires a detailed application packet that includes an essay, resume and a letter of recommendation.

<http://www.hispanicinterest.org/scholarship>

[Apple HBCU Scholars Program](http://tmcf.org/our-scholarships/current-scholarships/apple-hbcu-scholars-program/6941)

Scholarship Award: $25,000 for the selected students’ senior year

Development Support Offered: Students participate in a summer internship with Apple in Cupertino, California, and a year-round development program to prepare for post-graduation careers, pairing with an Apple employee mentor during their senior year.

Eligibility Requirements:  This program is for college juniors majoring in Business, Communications, Computer Science, Information Science/Technology, Mathematics, Public Relations and/or Engineering (electrical, mechanical, computer science, or materials science) major, enrolled at a full-time at a four-year accredited HBCU/PBI (Predominately Black Institution) in the second-to-last year of study, with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.30

[Golden Apple Scholars Program](http://www.goldenapple.org/golden-apple-scholars)

Scholarship Award: Up to $23,000 total, which breaks down to:

• $2,500 per year for freshmen and sophomore years

• $5,000 per year for junior and senior years

• $2,000 stipend each summer for Summer Institute work

Development Support Offered:  Scholars participate in paid Summer Institutes each summer, and get job placement assistance through seminars and workshops, academic support, and portfolio preparation. Scholars are provided with ongoing mentoring and classroom support throughout college and during early years of teaching.

Eligibility Requirements: This program is for students in Illinois interested in becoming educators who plan to attend one of Golden Apple’s 52 Illinois partner universities, and have a 2.5 GPA and a 22+ ACT composite score with a combined 19 in English/Writing. Scholars commit to teaching for five years in schools-of-need throughout Illinois.

* See more at: <http://blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/category/money/#sthash.V3ujdasD.dpuf>;

How do I find and apply for scholarships?

• [CollegeGreenlight.com](http://CollegeGreenlight.com)

-Ask your guidance counselor about state/localscholarships

• FastWeb.Com

-NEVER pay for a scholarship or scholarship search

• Bigfuture.collegeboard.org