

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

Hi, everyone and *congratulations* on all your acceptances!

We can't wait to see what school you will *grace* with your presence next! It's so great to see you all in your pursuit of a college career. Below is information on how to successfully apply for scholarships for high school and college students. It never hurts to apply!

However, scholarship scams have become prevalent in the rise and growth of technology and social media. There can be a lot of deception regarding such opportunities, so make sure you are on a reputable site.

Some sites to get started on:

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Scholarships.com

ScholarshipPoints.com

Zinch.com

Naviance

And of course, your guidance counselor at school!

Do Your Own R E S E A R C H

As you've probably noticed, many of the scholarships above are fairly generous. However, that likely means they are very competitive. You could be a very strong applicant for any number of scholarships and still not be awarded. You might be asking, "so then what do I do?"

The reality is that there are countless scholarship programs out there that might be really good fits for you! They can be tailored to your exact interests, location, background, identity, etc.

The more niche a scholarship program, the better chances you'll have of winning an award (with a qualified application, that is).

So do your own research on scholarships programs that operate in your area or are offered to students with your particular interests or passions. The Ronald McDonald House Charities scholarships are a good place to start. You can also pay a visit to your guidance counselor, who should have more information on local scholarships.

In addition, you could branch out on your own by searching online for scholarships in your area. If you have a particular talent, skill, or interest, look for scholarships that are offered to students based on those criteria.

Apply B R O A D L Y

Applying for scholarships (like applying to colleges) is in part a numbers game.

You wouldn't apply to just one school if you wanted to optimize your chances of getting into a great college, would you? Many scholarship

applications ask similar questions and require similar information, so if you apply to one program, you might as well apply to a bunch.

It's free to apply for most scholarships anyway—all it takes is a few hours of your time.

Finally, take advantage of applications that submit you for consideration for many scholarship awards, such as the Horatio Algier Scholarship mentioned above.

Make Note of DEADLINES

Scholarship applications are all over the place—there's no defined “scholarship season” for submission deadlines, but many are due before college application deadlines. Therefore, it's better to start your scholarship search earlier rather than later so you don't miss out on any great opportunities.

The summer before your senior year is a good time to start making note of programs you're interested in. Keep track of application deadlines by maintaining a spreadsheet that you update regularly. This is especially helpful if applications require you to ask for letters of recommendation; you can make sure to give teachers and mentors plenty of advance notice to write you a letter if you start earlier.

