



Maximize your Scholarships



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Overview

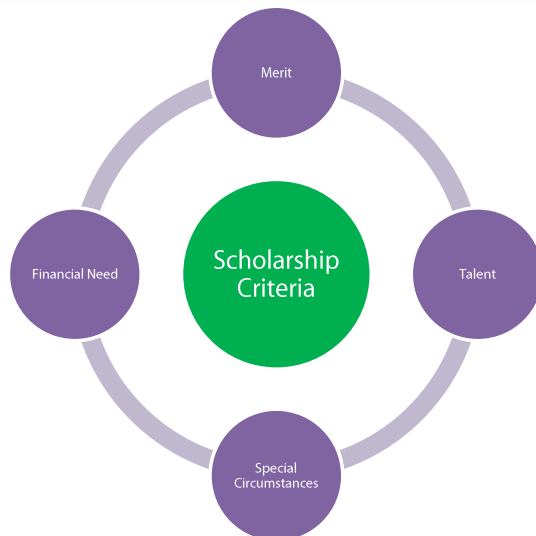
- Who Wins Scholarships?
- Basic Strategies for Winning Scholarships
- Searching for Scholarships
- Tips on Winning Scholarships
- Pitfalls and Dangers
- After You Win a Scholarship
- Key Scholarship Resources

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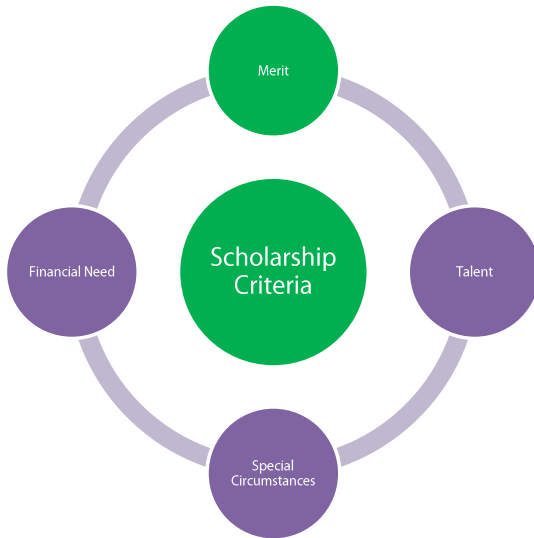
Who Wins Scholarships?

- Very few students win a completely free ride
 - Of students enrolled full-time at a 4-year college
 - 0.3% get enough grants to cover the full COA
 - 1.0% get enough grants to cover 90% or more of the COA
 - 3.4% get enough grants to cover 75% or more of the COA
 - 14.3% get enough grants to cover 50% or more of the COA
 - Of students winning scholarships, more than two-thirds (69.1%) received less than \$2,500
- More students at 4-year colleges win scholarships
 - 8.3% of students at 4-year colleges win scholarships
 - 2.6% of students at 2-year colleges win scholarships



Scholarships come in many forms and virtually anyone can qualify for something.

Students should make every effort to identify the right opportunities to submit quality applications.



Merit

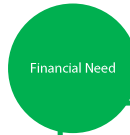
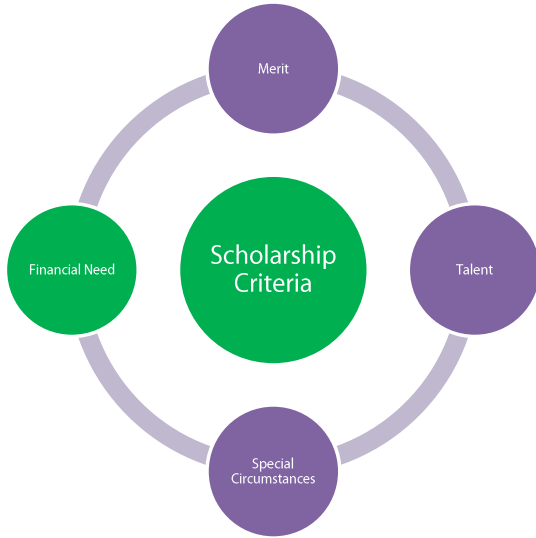
Common Merit Guidelines:
 Very High Merit 3.75+
 High Merit 3.5
 Merit 3.0

In addition to overall academic achievement, scholarships are given for specific majors:

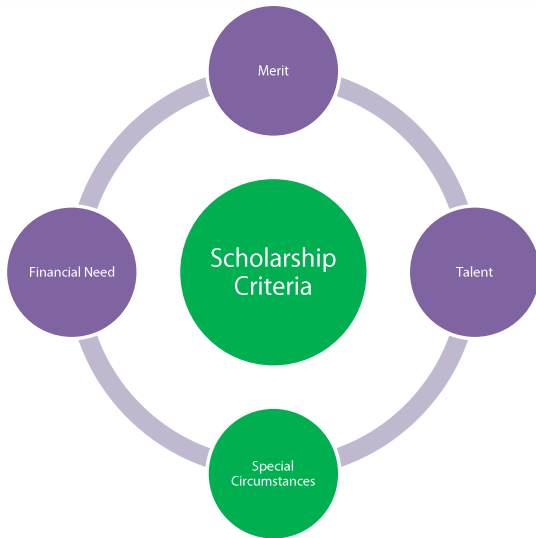
- STEM (science/technology/engineering/math)
- Health Care

Some Majors are More Lucrative

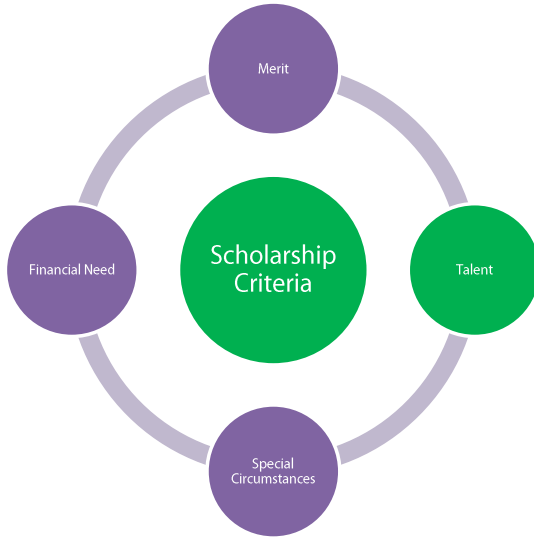
Major	Percentage Winning	Average Award
Math/Statistics	23.2%	\$4,059
Engineering	17.6%	\$3,075
Physical Sciences	17.1%	\$3,180
Life Sciences	16.9%	\$2,649
Education	15.0%	\$2,420
Health	14.8%	\$2,880
Social Sciences	12.7%	\$3,063
Humanities	12.5%	\$2,623
Computer Science	11.1%	\$2,974
Business	9.1%	\$2,828



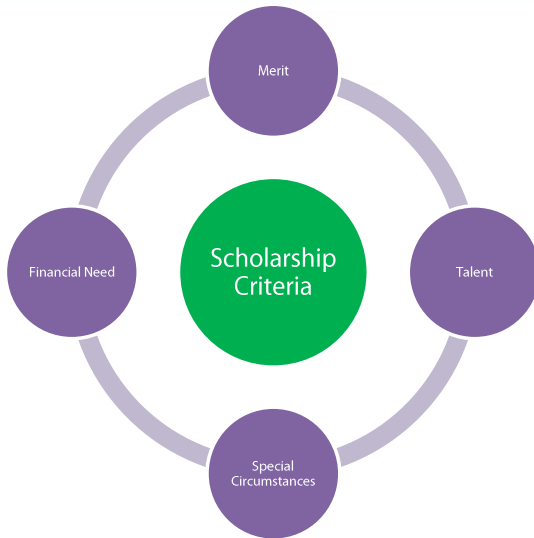
- Some scholarships use FAFSA results to determine financial need
- Many scholarships require an individual assessment of your budget which can provide you with the opportunity to explain any special circumstances



- Diversity
 - Ethnicity/Gender/Sexual Orientation
 - Geographic (US/International)
- Community Service and Leadership
 - Clubs
 - Church/Youth Organization
- Overcoming Obstacles
 - First Generation
 - Disabilities
- After-School Employment



- Sports/Music/Art/Theatre/Writing
- Your talent may not always win you a scholarship but it may get you into a better school



Scholarships usually require one of more of these components. The combination and/or strength of these criteria will determine how competitive you are.



Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4.0 Scale	High School GPA (% Winning Scholarships)	College GPA (% Winning Scholarships)
0.0-1.9 (D- to C)	5.7%	7.0%
2.0-2.4 (C to B-)	7.1%	9.1%
2.5-2.9 (B- to B)	9.5%	10.7%
3.0-3.4 (B to A-)	10.7%	13.1%
3.5-4.0 (A- to A)	18.7%	18.8%

**More
Students
with Good
Grades Win**



Strategies for Winning Scholarships

- It's a numbers game
 - Even among talented students, who wins involves a bit of luck, not just skill
 - To win more scholarships, apply to more scholarships, but only if you qualify
- You can't win if you don't apply
 - One in four students never applies for financial aid
- It gets easier after your first 6 applications
 - Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application
- Don't miss deadlines

Searching for Scholarships

- Start searching as soon as possible
 - If you wait until spring to start searching, you will miss half the deadlines
 - There are many scholarships available to students in all grades, not just high school seniors.
- Use a free scholarship matching service like FastWeb or SALT Money
- Look for scholarship listing books at the library or bookstore, but check the publication date

More Ways of Searching for Money

- Look for local scholarships on bulletin boards near the guidance counselor or financial aid offices, or the library's jobs and careers section
- Look in the coupon section of the newspaper
- Answer the optional questions on a scholarship matching service for twice as many matches - look for near-miss matches
- Pursue less competitive scholarships, such as small awards and essay contests, since they are easier to win, the money adds up and they help you win bigger scholarships



Tips on Winning Scholarships

- Prioritize your applications by deadline and the expected value of the scholarship
- Use a calendar and checklist to get organized
- Create an accomplishments resume
- Tailor your application to the sponsor's goals
- Read and follow the instructions
- Make your application stand out from the crowd
- Ask to be nominated
- Practice on a copy of the application form



Writing a Winning Scholarship Essay

- Answer the essay question orally and transcribe the recording
- Use an outline to organize your thoughts
- Give examples and be specific
- Personalize your essay and be passionate
- Write about something of interest to you
- Talk about your impact on other people
- Proofread a printed copy of the essay for spelling and grammar errors



Tips for Letters of Recommendation

- Ask a professor if they would be willing to write you a *great* letter of recommendation
- The recommendation should be relevant to the scholarship sponsor's goal
- Provide the recommender with a copy of your accomplishments resume
- Provide the recommender with a SASE and all required forms
- Thank the recommender for writing the letter

Other Scholarship Application Tips

- Use a professional email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com
- Clean up the content of your Facebook account, removing inappropriate and immature material
- Google your name to see what shows up
- Make a photocopy of your application before mailing it
- Send the application by certified mail, return receipt requested or with delivery confirmation
- If rejected, ask for the reviewer comments

After You Win a Scholarship

- Understand your college's outside scholarship policy and seek adjustments to the cost of attendance or defer a scholarship if necessary
- If your scholarship is renewable, review the requirements for retaining eligibility
- Tell the scholarship sponsors when you win a major award or other recognition
- Understand the taxability of your scholarships
 - Amounts for tuition, fees, books, supplies tax-free
 - Amounts for room and board, transportation and other living expenses are taxable

Beware of Scholarship Scams

- If you have to pay money to get money, it is probably a scam
- Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships or to apply for a scholarship
- Nobody can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship
- Do not give out personal information like bank account numbers, credit card numbers or Social Security numbers
- Beware of the unclaimed aid myth

Most Common Application Mistakes

- Missing deadlines
- Failing to proofread the application
- Failing to follow directions (essay length, number of recommendations)
- Omitting required information
- Applying for an award when you don't qualify
- Failing to apply for an award for which you are eligible
- Failing to tailor the application to the sponsor
- Writing a boring essay

Key Scholarship Resources

- www.fastweb.com
- www.finaid.org/scholarships
- www.finaid.org/websearch
- www.finaid.org/scholarshipscams
- www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
- www.finaid.org/taxbenefits
- www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf

K-State Scholarship Resources

- K-State Scholarship Application - <http://www.ksu.edu/apply/dashboard>
- Nationally Competitive Scholarships - <http://www.k-state.edu/nationalscholarships/>
- Office of Non-traditional and Veteran Student Services - www.ksu.edu/nontrad/scholarships
- Revise and proofread personal statements and essays through the Writing Center <https://www.k-state.edu/english/writingcenter/>
- SALT – <https://www.saltmoney.org>
- Hale Library
- Departmental and college office bulletin boards (check this area October-May)
- Glass display cases for scholarships, near 121 Fairchild Hall (check October-May)
- Other places to search: clubs, organization, public libraries, academic advisors, religious organizations.

Questions?

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