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How To Search For A College Scholarship

By Garrick Banks

With thousands of scholarships available, the task of finding all of the scholarships that apply to you can be quite troublesome. Luckily, there are several ways you can go about efficiently finding all of the scholarships that apply to you.

In the United States athletic scholarships are largely regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which sets minimum standards for both the individuals awarded the scholarships (in terms of GPA's and standardized test scores for recipients), and for the institutions granting them (in terms of the proportion of scholarship recipients who must ultimately earn degrees).

In 1973, the NCAA split its membership into three divisions: Division I, Division II and Division III. Under NCAA rules, Division I and Division II schools can offer scholarships to athletes for playing a sport. Division III schools may not offer any athletic scholarships. Generally, larger schools compete in Division I and smaller schools in II and III. Division I football is further divided into I-A and I-AA.

Ironically, institutions that engage in misconduct may be stripped of the ability to award a certain number of athletic scholarships. Although this damages the ability of that institution to compete in sporting events, the greater impact is on the ability of student athletes, who may lose their only avenue to higher education.

1. Financial Aid Office

The most obvious first place to start looking is the financial aid office of the school you are interested in. This office usually contains useful texts as well as consellers that can help to start you on your quest for scholarships and financial aid.

2. Internet Scholarship Search Sites

There are numerous web sites out there that will let you, for a small price, apply to all of the scholarships that you qualify for. After filling out a few forms and answering some common questions a list will appear and you can check off that ones you would like to apply to electronically.

How To Search For A College Scholarship

For example, CollegeNets Mach 25 Search is a free version of the WintergreenOrchard House Scholarship Finder database. Although they don't allow you to electronically file for applications it is still a great listing of over half a million unique scholarships and over \$1 billion dollars is given to students annually.

3. Other Places You Can Try

– Bulletin board of the financial aid office – Admission office booklets and pamphlets – The athletic department and school team coaches – The library – High School Guidance Counselors

For more great scholarship related articles and resources check out

<http://123scholarships.info>

Scholarship Search - How to find free money for college

By Vanessa McHooley

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College students receive billions of dollars in scholarship money every year. How can you get some of this money to fund your college education?

Start looking early

Start looking for scholarships at least by your sophomore or junior year in high school. Some scholarships are even awarded as early as junior high. Where to look? Your first stop should be your high school counseling office, followed by your college financial aid office. Other places to look include

- Civic and community organizations
- Cultural institutions
- Your parents' place of employment
- Your state Department of Education
- The internet

Keep looking

Keep searching for new scholarships and renewing existing scholarships even after you begin college. Many scholarships need to be renewed annually, and you may qualify for new loans throughout your college years.

Develop your interests

While some scholarships are based on financial need or academic achievement, others are based on particular interests, extracurricular achievements, ethnicity, or religious affiliation.

How To Search For A College Scholarship

Meet deadlines

Pay attention to the scholarship requirements - meet them in as creative a way as possible, and always be on time!

Diversify

Apply for every scholarship that you qualify for. Even small scholarships can add up to big money if you win enough of them.

Beware of scams

As you search for scholarships, especially on the internet, look out for scam artists who

- Charge application fees
- Guarantee you will receive a scholarship
- Ask for unnecessary personal information, such as your bank account number

There are plenty of free scholarship search sites on the web, so don't pay for this service.

This article is distributed by NextStudent. At NextStudent, we believe that getting an education is the best investment you can make, and we're dedicated to helping you pursue your education dreams by making college funding as easy as possible. We invite you to learn more about how to maximize your scholarship search at <http://www.NextStudent.com> .

My goal is to help every student succeed – education is one of the most important things a person can have, so I have made it my personal mission to help every student pay for their education. Aside from that, I am just a pretty average girl from SD.



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