



Ms. Fanta's Scholarship Guide

If you have any questions, contact Ms. Fanta:

- Come into the College and Career Center
 - Message on Teams (name listed on Teams is Sia'h Jimissa)
 - Email at sfjimissa@berkeley.edu. Call or text at 510-816-4524
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What is a scholarship?

A scholarship is money awarded to you to pay for education expenses like tuition, housing, books and transportations. You can receive scholarships from many different places including non-profits, local businesses and community organizations. Scholarships are also available through the college/university you are attending. A scholarship is money that you do not have to pay back, as long as you fulfill the requirements shared with you.

There isn't one application for all scholarships, so YOU will need to take the initiative to find and apply to them.

What are scholarships awarded for?

Scholarships can be awarded for pretty much anything! Most opportunities are open to high school seniors and continuing college & trade/vocational students. Here are characteristics a scholarship may be looking for:

- GPA
- Personal background (race/ethnicity, first-generation and/or low income status, financial need)
 - Scholarships aren't limited to those who demonstrate financial need. There are opportunities that do not consider income.
- School and/or community involvement in sports, clubs, volunteering or other extracurricular activities
- Location (if you live in a specific region or city)
- Academic and personal interests
- College or trade/vocational program that you are enrolled in

It can be helpful to make a list of all of your characteristics, to keep track of everything you could be eligible for.

What do I need to apply to scholarships?

As stated, there isn't one application for all scholarships, so it depends on the specific opportunity. Most scholarships will ask you for a combination of:

- Transcripts
- A personal statement talking about your academic and professional interests
 - Check out my [personal statement guide](#) for help with this
- A resume or list of extracurricular activities
 - Check out my [resume guide](#) for help with this
- 1-3 Letters of Recommendation from a teacher, counselor, coach, or supervisor
 - Plan to share your resume/[Senior Profile](#) and personal statement with your recommender to help them write your letter.
- Headshot (like your senior portrait)

Save yourself time by getting these things together now! Once you have these documents, you can just reuse them for different applications.

Where do I find scholarships?

1. Create a way to keep track of the scholarships that you find. When you find a scholarship that you qualify for, put it in your tracker. Below are templates that you can use to stay organized.
 - a. [Scholarship Tracker - Google Docs](#): Keep track of basic information about each scholarship
 - b. [Scholarship Tracker - Google Sheets](#): Keep track of more detailed information. There are additional tabs for you to keep track of money that you've won, and opportunities you want to apply for in future years.
 - c. You can also create your own method! Consider using your calendar, a planner, a notebook, etc
2. **REGULARLY look at these scholarship lists and come into the College and Career Center to learn of local scholarship opportunities.**
 - a. [East Bay Scholarships List](#)
 - b. [DV Scholarship List](#)
 - c. [ESBCC Scholarship Bulletin 25-26](#)
 - d. [Immigrants Rising Scholarship List](#) (Scholarships with no citizenship requirement)
3. Prioritize local scholarships. Since they are only open to students in the area, there is a smaller applicant pool leading to higher chances of winning.
4. Do Google search of your characteristics (look at section above for more information).

- a. Ex: “Scholarships for Black students in the Bay Area”, “Scholarships for first generation STEM students in California”
5. Talk to your parents, teachers, counselors, etc. to let them know that you are looking for scholarships. They may have opportunities that you do not know about.