



Scholarship Hunting: Tips & Advice

Before you Apply:

- Be aware that you should never have to pay to apply for a scholarship!
- Focus on local scholarships in your community. These are not as competitive as national scholarship competitions.

Notify! Notify! Notify!

- **Notify your counselor** if you are awarded any scholarship (even if you decide not to accept the award) and bring a copy of your notification letter.
- You must notify your financial aid office at your chosen college if you are awarded a private scholarship.
- Receiving scholarships sometimes means that your financial aid offer must be adjusted to reduce your loan amount.

Success Tips:

- Meet the deadline!
- File your FAFSA now beginning October 1st. Many scholarships and colleges will require that you have completed the FAFSA.
- Give your references plenty of notice to write a letter of recommendation for you. Don't wait until the last minute! Two weeks notice is preferred.
- Follow all directions & double-check to make sure no errors were made. Ensure that your application packet is complete (application, essay, transcripts, etc).
- Keep copies of everything!

As you Begin your Search:

Get organized: make a spreadsheet or list that highlights all of the important facts & deadlines, such as:
Scholarship name, due date, amount, web address, qualifications, essay, documents required

Local/State Scholarship Resources:

- [Scholarship Central - Virginia Beach City Public Schools](#)
- <https://www.goingmerry.com/c/alishaz-xmbe3n>
- www.tbaonline.org
- www.hamptonroadscf.org

Military-Connected Scholarship Resources

<https://sites.google.com/vbschools.com/militarydependentscholarships/home?scrlybrkr=aa9f323>

National Scholarship Resources:

According to USA Today, the 10 best sites to search for nationwide scholarships are:

- <https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>
- <https://www.unigo.com/>
- www.fastweb.com
- www.cappex.com
- <https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>
- <https://pages.collegeboard.org/scholarship-opportunities-from-collegeboard>
- <https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>
- www.scholarships.com
- www.CollegeNet.com
- www.ScholarshipMonkey.com

ACCESS College Foundation lists these sites:

- www.fastaid.com
- www.gmsp.org
- www.nasfaa.org
- www.uncf.org

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) & Financial Aid

- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.studentaid.ed.gov/
- <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm> - provides early estimate of federal student aid
- www.schev.edu
- <http://www.nasfaa.org/>
- www.salliemae.com

Where to Find Scholarships:

- Scholarship Central (https://www.vbschools.com/students/scholarship_central)
- Going Merry (<https://www.goingmerry.com/c/alishaz-xmbe3n>)
- Civic Groups, Military Associations, Trade Associations, Ethnic Organizations
- Where you worship
- Internet Scholarship Search Engines
- Your intended college (most colleges will have a merit scholarship deadline-be sure to meet that!)
- Private Foundations & Charities
- State & Local Governments, Clubs

**Be willing to put some hard work into your scholarship applications.
Don't shy away from applications that require an essay!**