

Scholarship Search Tips

The following may be used by students and parents to start the scholarship search and application process, or at least add to their current efforts.

The key is to make a habit of searching and applying for **many** scholarships (review around ***100** per week, being sure to avoid scams, payment services, etc.) and ensuring each and every application, essay, etc is submitted in strict accordance with the scholarship rules.

***Quick stat:** usually, for every 1 scholarship earned, a student needs to submit about 10 scholarship applications. In order to locate those 10, the student needs to review at least 100 opportunities (source: StudentScholarshipSearch.com).

A Few Strategies:



Divide the search based on source (below is not an exhaustive list):

1. **Federal Aid** (use FAFSA to get Pell, FSEOG, etc. if eligible)
2. **State Aid** (each [state's higher education association](#) administers aid for the state)
3. **City** (check with high school guidance office and on [state's webpage](#) for opportunities)
4. **Community** (*check with your state and county [community foundations!](#))
5. **Private sources** (use FastWeb.com, scholarship search manuals, the Internet, etc.)
6. **Educational institutions** (HU – [major department](#), financial aid, support departments, etc.)

***E-Books**

1. Buy a reputable scholarship manual as an **e-book** (**2014 Ultimate Scholarship Book**).
2. Then, take some time to write down key terms associated with your:
 - **Academics** (e.g. classification, major, gpa)
 - **Residence** (e.g. state, city, high school)
 - **Associations** (e.g. athletics, band, student government)
 - **Future career** (e.g. teacher, lawyer, engineer, biologist).
3. Next, use the **Find** option in Adobe Reader (or other program you use to read the e-book) to search the entire e-book for each of the key terms you found.
4. Record your findings on a **MS Excel spreadsheet like the one attached above**. Remain diligent and focused while following your leads.



This can save much time and open many possibilities!

Free Search Engine Memberships

Start free memberships with:

1. [*FastWeb.com](#)
2. [Student Scholarship Search](#)
3. [ScholarshipExperts.com](#)
4. [Scholarships.com](#)
5. [Peterson's](#)
6. [SallieMae](#)



These organizations use your member profile to match with their database of scholarship opportunities from various grantors and then send these to you via e-mail, usually daily!

Target Approach – Start at the target (local sources and proceed to more distant sources)!

1. State higher education agency
(http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list.cfm?category_ID=SHE)
2. High school guidance office
3. Place of worship and those of friends and family
4. Local community foundations (<http://www.tgci.com/funding.shtml>).



**Be sure to ask people in these places, even if their opportunities are not available.
See if they know of any other opportunities from local sources (i.e. chamber of commerce, civic organizations, sororities/fraternities, etc.).*

PAY ATTENTION TO DETAIL: Deadlines, format (font, word limit, method of submission), essays

Resume'

You may decide to create a scholarship resume: <http://www.gocollege.com/financial-aid/scholarships/apply/resume.html>, print it, and include it in your scholarship applications and visits to local organizations.

**Twitter

We are on Twitter: https://twitter.com/HUPirate_FinAid. Check periodically for new scholarship opportunities on this site. We also retweet updates from the U.S. Department of Education, which provide important information.

Scams (check with the [FTC](#) and the [National Consumer League](#))

Beware of [scams and fake scholarships](#)! Do not pay for scholarship services!

Resources & Tips!

General and Scholarship by Major Listings:

http://www.hamptonu.edu/student-services/financialaid/gen_info/grant_scholarships.cfm.

Tip: A good way for students in most majors to seek scholarships connected to their major field of study is to become members in student organizations:

- <http://www.hamptonu.edu/academics/> (HU Academic web pages) &
- http://www.hamptonu.edu/student_life/studentorgs.cfm (General Listing).

*Be sure to check the member benefits and related links on each organization's webpage when considering applying for scholarships and/or membership.

It is recommended for students to regularly search for scholarships from external sources, such as [CareerOneStop.com](http://www.careeronestop.com) and [FastWeb](http://www.fastweb.com), throughout their college career in order to alleviate or eliminate their reliance on loans.

Many opportunities are lost when students fail to adhere to 100% of the scholarship requirements.

(*REVIEW YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS CAREFULLY PRIOR TO SUBMISSION!)

Another tip: use both books and the Internet to search, since reliance on the Internet alone will decrease your pool of resources.

Another tip: (Target Approach again) search for scholarships in your local community, first, since these sources are usually more limited and receive far fewer applicants than the national opportunities, such as those offered through the [UNCF](http://www.uncef.org). Here is a link to community foundations in your state: <http://www.tgci.com/funding.shtml>.