

Helpful Hints for the Scholarship Process

The 5 "P's"

“Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance”
Plan early! Do not wait until the month before you graduate to seek scholarships. It will take time to gather recommendations and important information.



Look, Look, and Look Again! Check closely for mistakes. Spell-check, proofread, and even ask another person look over your application before submission. Make sure you read all the directions and include all necessary information requested – remember that your application is one among many, and it might not be considered if not filled out completely. Make sure you are eligible for the scholarship before applying. Do not leave any items blank.



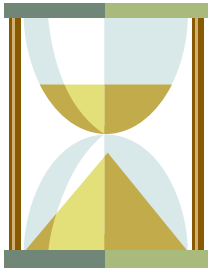
Do not ignore scholarships that are local or for small amounts. Every dollar adds up and will help pay for the many expenses you will face as a college student – books, tuition, room & board, fees and more.



Use your resources!!! There are many scholarships available, not only on the internet, but in your local community and region. Search the newspapers, visit your guidance counselors, ask local universities, and meet with local clubs and organizations to see what is available.



Market yourself! This is the time to “blow your own horn” and highlight your achievements, including community involvement and volunteerism. Don’t be afraid to brag about your accomplishments!



Do not just apply to one or two scholarships and wait to hear the results. Apply for everything you are eligible to win, and continue to look for scholarships that are available to you while you are in college.



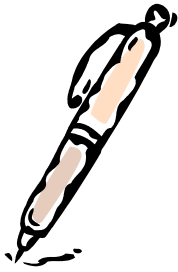
Stay organized! Keep track of deadlines. Know the materials you need to complete the application. Make copies of everything. Keep several copies of high-demand items such as financial records, transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.



Be well-rounded. SAT scores and grades are not enough to get you most scholarships. Organizations and schools also look at community service, extracurricular activities, leadership skills, and special talents.



Ensure that your letters of recommendation are written by someone who knows you closely – with your name, the organization’s name, and the name of the scholarship all spelled correctly. Consider asking teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, religious leaders, employers, volunteer supervisors and friends of the family. Provide the person with all necessary information about you. Make sure to thank them!



Write a good essay: brainstorm ideas, make an outline, capture attention with a good opening, have strong content throughout the essay and bring it all together with a conclusion. If you write about what you know and write from the heart, it will show.



Learn about the organization to which you are applying. Show an interest and tailor your application if possible – find the name of a person to whom the application should be addressed. Learn about the history of the organization, and possibly talk to past scholarship recipients for advice.



The interview is where you will make your lasting impression. Dress conservatively in business attire. Arrive early for your interview. Research the organization. Read up on current news in the world to show you are aware of your surroundings. Hold a practice interview with possible questions you may be asked.

Helpful websites:

www.aaeff.org

www.cfabilene.org

www.scholarshipworkshop.com

www.tuitionfundingsources.com

www.scholarshiphelp.org