

START HERE

Apply Early and Often

- ✓ Many scholarship opportunities go unclaimed each year simply because the award didn't receive the perfect applicant. Don't let free money go un-awarded!

Pay attention to deadlines and details

- ✓ Deadlines are important and are used to help narrow the pool of scholarship contenders. Make sure you abide by all posted deadlines so you don't miss out!
- ✓ Make sure if your application requires a letter of recommendation or an essay that you be sure to include this. You don't want your application rejected simply because it's missing required information.

NEXT STEPS

Don't sign up for every scholarship search service – you'll just overwhelm yourself.

- ✓ Focus on 1 or 2 search engines and narrow your choices from there. The more specific the scholarship criteria, the better chance you have of being selected as a winner!

ALMOST DONE

Outside scholarships aren't just for incoming freshman!

- ✓ Many students are under the impression that outside scholarship opportunities are limited to new incoming students; however, many organizations and agencies offer awards to upperclassmen as well. Don't stop looking and applying just because you're a sophomore, junior or senior!

Look Local First

- ✓ Make sure you check out all local opportunities around you. Businesses and agencies will often favor local students when selecting scholarship recipients since this helps them give back to the community.

How to KEEP your scholarship

Some scholarships may be renewable. However, renewable awards might have ongoing requirements, including:

- ✓ **Submit a renewal application.** Scholarships may require a new application each academic year.
- ✓ **Grade point average.** You may need to maintain a minimum GPA to remain eligible.
- ✓ **Satisfactory Academic Progress.** You may be required to fulfill academic requirements, such as completing a certain number of credits or courses within a set amount of time.
- ✓ **Designated field of study.** Will you lose the award if you change majors?
- ✓ **Full-time enrollment status.** Scholarships frequently require you to be a full-time student.