

# A Student's Guide to Scholarships

## College & Career Center

Hours: 7:00 to 3:30 Monday - Friday

(503) 554-4517 website: <http://www.newberg.k12.or.us/nhs/college>

## Understanding Different Types of Scholarships

When seeking funding for college, it is important to understand the different types of scholarships available so that you can secure the broadest possible financial support for your education. Scholarship types include:

*Merit-based Scholarships*, which as the name suggests are given to a student based on his or her demonstration of a particular merit. This might include academic performance, artistic ability, athletic pursuits, community service, or student leadership.

*Need-based Scholarships* are given based on a student's financial need. Many of these scholarships use the information submitted on the FAFSA to determine the extent of a student's financial need. However, some organizations awarding need-based scholarships may use their own criteria for determining need.

*Student-specific Scholarships* are granted based on criteria particular to the individual student, including gender, race, religion, or nationality. Scholarships for minority groups are the most common.

*Career-specific Scholarships* are given to students who plan to pursue a specific field of study. Often, higher dollar scholarships are awarded to students pursuing careers in high-need areas, such as education, nursing, or STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

*College-specific Scholarships* are offered by individual institutions of higher education to highly qualified applicants. These scholarships, given on the basis of academic excellence and/or personal achievement, range from covering a portion of tuition to providing a full ride.



## Who Awards Scholarships?

- National organizations  
Example: Boy Scouts of America
- State programs  
Example: OSAC (Oregon Student Assistance Commission)
- Individual colleges  
Example: University of Oregon's Presidential Scholarship
- Professional organizations  
Example: Oregon Society of CPA's
- Community organizations  
Example: Newberg Rotary
- Corporations  
Example: Coca-Cola's First Generation Scholarship

# Scholarship Search Strategies

## Step 1: Take a Personal Inventory

Students should take an inventory of their skills, interests, and personal traits that could help to generate scholarship leads. This would include things like: academic performance, ancestry, religious affiliation, athletic ability, desired area of study, etc. For a sample personal inventory form go to:

<http://atyourlibrary.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/scholarship-personal-inventory.pdf>



## Step 2: Conduct Comprehensive Research

Searching for scholarships is going to take some work on your part. Try to set aside 2-3 hours a week to look for and apply for scholarships. It will pay off in the long run! To begin your search, check the College and Career Center or talk with your high school counselor. Also, check with your college's financial aid office. Most colleges will have a list of scholarships for students attending their school. Find out if your church or your parents' employers offer any scholarships. Lastly, use the Internet to search for additional scholarships. However, be cautious about which websites you use. You should never have to pay or provide bank account information or a Social Security Number. Here are a few reputable search engines:

- *fastweb.com*
- *bigfuture.collegeboard.org*
- *oregonstudentaid.gov* (OSAC)
- *finaid.org*
- *scholarships.com*
- *scholarshipjunkies.com*

## Step 3: Get Organized and Start Applying

Organize your research in a folder and begin applying for scholarships by their deadline. If it helps, print blank calendar pages and write the deadlines on it to keep you focused and on track. You do not have to complete them all at once, so take a breath and just get started. Keep track of which ones you have applied for and when you should hear back (most scholarships will tell you this information). This may seem like a lot of work, but if you spend two hours completing an application and get \$1,000 you just earned \$500 an hour!

### Tips for Getting Scholarships

1. Start early!
2. Pay close attention to deadlines.
3. Read eligibility requirements carefully.
4. Follow the instructions.
5. Proofread your application before submitting.
6. Keep copies of everything.
7. Have electronic copies of your transcript, SAT/ACT scores, and letters of recommendation for online applications.
8. Personalize your essays and be passionate.
9. It is okay to reuse essays, but be sure to tweak them to tailor fit each scholarship.
10. Apply to every scholarship that you are eligible for. It all adds up!