



SCHOLARSHIPS 101





WHAT ARE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Scholarships are free money students use to help pay college expenses.

Scholarships are available to students of all ages.

High School students should apply for 2-3 scholarships every week.





GET ORGANIZED

Plan and prepare for scholarships early.

The busiest time for scholarship deadlines
is January through March.

Don't rush when completing applications –
be thorough.





SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH





SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA



Ethnicity



Sports



Community Service



Financial Need



Skills



College Major

A+

Grades



Hobbies



Test Scores



Residency



Essay



Leadership



SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

UCanGo2.org

OKcollegestart.org

OCCF.org

FastWeb.com

Scholarships.com

Scholarships360.org

StudentScholarships.org

BigFuture.collegeboard.org

College-Scholarships.com

CollegeRaptor.com

CollegeXpress.com

Appily.com

Edvisors.com

GetSchooled.com

Unigo.com

ScholarshipOwl.com

Bold.org

MyScholly.com

CareerOneStop.org

Petersons.com





DON'T RUSH

Read all
instructions
carefully.

Answer
each
question
completely.

Write a great
essay.

Review with
your
teacher,
parent or
friend.

Proofread!
Proofread!
Proofread!

Ask for
recommendation
letters early!



SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS

A good scholarship essay ...

- Captivates readers
- Is original
- Has a main point
- Makes you dazzle
- Is honest
- Sets you apart
- Has no grammatical or spelling errors





RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Determine who to ask



Analyze your need for letters

Request letters early



Evaluate your letter

Keep letters in a safe place



Recommendation letters are needed for many scholarships.

Consider these tips when making your request.





WATCH FOR DEADLINES

Many
scholarships
have early
deadline dates.

Keep track of
requirements for
each
scholarship.

Don't wait until
the last minute!

Apply early!





DON'T FORGET

Apply for
scholarships
every year.

Complete
your FAFSA
annually at
FAFSA.gov.

Write a great
essay you
can use for
multiple
applications.

Don't miss
your
scholarship
deadlines!

Send all
required
documents
with your
application.





SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS



UCanGo2!

OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG
CLICK • COMPARE • CHOOSE

PATH TO SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

Starting the scholarship application process with a successful strategy in place is key. Knowing how to plan, research, apply and track applications will increase your chances of earning valuable awards. UCanGo2.org offers resources and publications to help as you plan, prepare and pay for your education after high school.

PLAN

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, in your senior year of high school and each year you need financial aid for education expenses. Learn more at FAFSA.gov.
- Investigate the cost of attendance at the school you plan to attend, and determine how much you'll need to cover your expenses. OKcollegestart.org can help you find the cost of higher education institutions nationwide.
- Evaluate your resources to determine how you'll pay for college. Consider savings, your current earnings, financial aid and any scholarships you may have already won.
- Create a resume that lists your talents, accomplishments and awards and provide it to those you ask to write letters of recommendation.

RESEARCH

- Scholarships are awarded based on a number of factors, including family, sports, community service, grades, hobbies, test scores, residency, financial need, skills, leadership, essays, college majors and more.
- Search for scholarships from your prospective colleges, tribal entities, employers, local organizations, Google, books and more.
- Ask your school counselor for scholarship resources.
- Use legitimate scholarship search sites like those found on the next page and at UCanGo2.org and OKcollegestart.org.
- Align your search to your characteristics and your college and career goals.

APPLY

- Check the deadline!
- Read through the application and any requirements for transcripts, essays, and letters of recommendation. Be sure to request/complete these items early.
- Follow instructions, review and proof your application so you're sure there are no mistakes. Ask someone else to proof it, too.
- Write an essay that's captivating, sets you apart, and is original. Take time to proofread and ask a teacher or counselor to proofread it, as well. Consider the guidance available in our [Scholarship Essay Tips](#) publication.
- Keep copies of your applications, essays, and letters of recommendation. You'll use the same general information on most applications, so copies will come in handy. Revising an essay you've already used is a good way to save time and improve upon what you've already created.
- Watch out for scholarship scams! Read the fine print, beware of guarantees, never pay to submit an application and protect your personal information. Learn more about scams at fic.gov/scholarshipscams.

TRACK

- Make note of all requirements to ensure you're applying for scholarships for which you're eligible.
- Send thank you notes to those who participated in your application process and to the scholarship providers if you win the award.
- Use a [Scholarship Tracker](#) to organize and keep track of completed applications and upcoming deadlines.
- Understand how a scholarship may impact other financial aid you've been awarded. Check with the college financial aid office if you have questions.

RESOURCES

TRIBAL WEBSITES

AStribe.com (Absentee Shawnee)
Bahkhoje.com (Iowa)
CheyenneandArapaho-nsn.gov
Cherokee.org
Chickasaw.net
ChoctawNation.com
ComancheNation.com
DelawareTribe.org
KawNation.com
KickapooTribeOfOklahoma.com
MiamiNation.com
MuscogeeNation.com (Muscogee/Creek)
MyCaddoNation.com
OsageNation-nsn.gov
PawneeNation.org
PeoriaTribe.com
Ponca-nsn.gov
Potawatomi.org
QuapawTribe.com
SacandFoxNation-nsn.gov
SCTribe.com (Seneca-Cayuga)
Shawnee-nsn.gov
Sno-nsn.gov (Seminole)
WichitaTribe.com
Wyandotte-Nation.org

For more information, visit the Oklahoma Historical Society website, www.ohistory.org/research/aitribes, for more specific information.

Visit UCanGo2.org and OKcollegestart.org to find scholarships and to learn about scholarship success.

Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/UCanGo2 and facebook.com/OKcollegestart to stay up-to-date on scholarship opportunities.

UCanGo2!

OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG
CLICK • COMPARE • CHOOSE

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal laws and regulations, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services. This publication is issued by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, as authorized by 70 O.S. 2001, Section 2006, and is located at the following website: www.okcollegestart.org. This publication has been submitted in compliance with Section 5-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes. This publication was produced in July 2020.

- [Scholarships by Deadline](#)
- [Scholarship Essay Tips](#)
- [Scholarship Success Guide](#)
- [Scholarship Tracker](#)





HELPFUL FLYERS



SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY TIPS

The scholarship essay is a chance for you to shine and to set yourself apart from other scholarship applicants. Writing a good essay is key to winning a scholarship, so use these tips to help you move to the top of the list. Scholarships with essay requirements are likely to have fewer applicants.

Scholarship essays are used by providers to:

- Find students who meet certain criteria.
- Get to know you as a student and person.
- Make sure your experience and interests coincide with the organization's mission.

Keep these tips in mind when writing your scholarship essay:

- Take writing your essay seriously; remember it's key to earning the scholarship.
- Make sure your essay is honest, original, conveys your personality and captivates the reader.
- Be organized, meet all requirements and don't rush through your essay.
- Write and edit your essay in another document and copy and paste it to the application. Save this document and use it to start your next essay.
- Be prepared to answer the scholarship question (sometimes called a prompt) on a variety of topics, which might include:
 - Future academic or life plans
 - Personal history or achievements
 - Current events or social issues

Writing Tips:

- Read the directions carefully before you start.
- Be aware of deadlines.
- Brainstorm ideas and create an outline.
- Write a rough draft, a second draft and then a final copy.
- Start over if you finish and your work doesn't seem to fit the scholarship prompt.
- If needed, ask for help from your counselor, a teacher or someone you know who has received a scholarship that required an essay.
- Use personal and real stories. The scholarship provider wants to know you and what makes you unique.
- The majority of scholarship providers discourage the use of artificial intelligence for composing an essay. Consider AI as a tool to assist in refining your ideas, verifying grammar or enhancing the overall document.
- Use spell check, proofread and be mindful of vocabulary and grammar. Mistakes can be costly. Make use of online grammar and writing tools.
- Watch for questions that require more than one answer.

Sample Essay Questions or Prompts:

- Describe an experience that changed your life. What did you learn? How will this experience influence you moving forward?
- Advice is sometimes easier to give than to follow. Share a piece of advice you ignored and why you should have followed it.
- Describe an innovative project you designed, the goal of your project, and the outcomes. Be prepared to provide supporting documentation.
- Write a letter explaining your need for this scholarship, your plans for higher education and your future career goals.
- Describe a moment that illustrates your shift from child to adult within your community or family.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal laws and regulations, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services. This publication is issued by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, as authorized by 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3006, and is located at the following website: www.okcollegestart.org. This publication has been submitted in compliance with Section 5-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes. This publication was produced in June 2008.



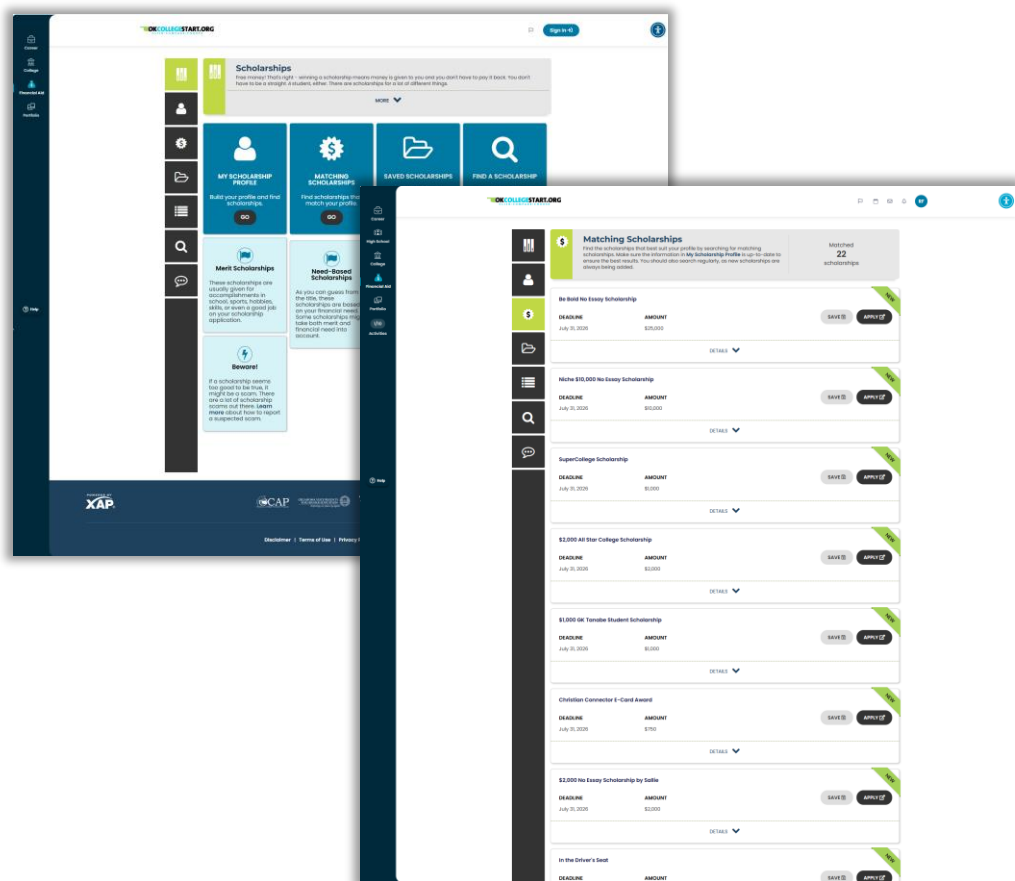
SCHOLARSHIP TRACKER

SCHOLARSHIP NAME	AWARD AMOUNT	DEADLINE	ESSAY	DATE SUBMITTED	NOTES
Sample Scholarship	\$2,000	November 15	No	September 2	Must attend a 2-year college for the award





OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG



- **Scholarship Search**
- **Find matching scholarships**
- **Sign up for scholarship alerts**
- **Save scholarships**
- **Apply for Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship**





UNIQUE SCHOLARSHIPS



UCanGo2!

UNIGO SCHOLARSHIPS

unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/

I HAVE A DREAM SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$1,500 | Deadline: January 31

It's crazy to think of all the amazing stories that happen as soon as we close our eyes and go to sleep. It's a deep slumber or perhaps in a carefree daze, but our dreams can help shape our ideas, plans, and goals.

SWEET AND SIMPLE SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$1,500 | Deadline: February 28

Think back to a time when you received a special gift that seemed so unassuming, yet meaningful. Was it a present you could open in a box or a humble gesture from a stranger?

SUPERPOWER SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$2,500 | Deadline: March 31

Have you ever wondered where you'd go if you could fly around downtown? Or maybe you could take over the world. For all of those hero lovers and villain enthusiasts, this super scholarship is your chance to win free college money.

ALL ABOUT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$3,000 | Deadline: April 30

It's often been said that education is the key to success. What doors could your education open for you? Get a college degree, and many college-bound students see a shut door for education. We'll help you get it open.

FIFTH MONTH SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$1,500 | Deadline: May 31

One is the loneliest number. Three is a crowd. Then there is five. What's so special about the number five? A lucky number could help you win a \$1,500 scholarship.

DO-OVER SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$1,500 | Deadline: June 30

Mistakes — we've all made them. Too bad life doesn't always give you a mulligan. Or does it? What chance to "do-over" a moment in your life? What would it be? How would it affect you and your future?

FLAVOR OF THE MONTH SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$1,500 | Deadline: July 31

Summer and ice cream go hand-in-hand. In fact, July is National Ice Cream Month, and this award. We think people are very similar to ice cream; some are nutty, others a little bit comforting. If you were an ice cream flavor, which would you be and why?

MAKE ME LAUGH SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$1,500 | Deadline: August 31

Scholarships can be fun! Take a break from the boring application routine and make us laugh. That's right; we want a real LOL moment. Make Me Laugh is a fun scholarship that lets you cut loose and lighten things up. Looking for a scholarship for comedians? Now is your chance to show us your funny bone. Perhaps you always have an embarrassing but funny story to share — great! We'll promise to laugh with you, not at you.

SHOUT IT OUT SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$1,500 | Deadline: September 30

Have something on your mind? Let it out, or better yet, SHOUT it out. Give your thoughts a voice and earn free college money at the same time. Our Shout It Out Scholarship committee wants to know what you have to say. Whether it's a message for the world or just a quick "hi, mom," this is your opportunity to speak up and win money for college. We're listening!

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$2,000 | Deadline: October 31

Did binge rewatching *The Walking Dead* get you thinking about what you'd do if the streets were filled with flesh-eating zombies? Maybe you've envisioned your own post-apocalyptic world overrun with the living dead, forcing you to come up with a zombie survival plan — and quick!

EDUCATION MATTERS SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$5,000 | Deadline: November 30

As a scholarship seeker, you're probably already well aware of the importance of an education. But what about the nay-sayers? Have you come across someone who has tried to talk you out of college, saying that it's not worth it?

TOP TEN LIST SCHOLARSHIP

Amount: \$1,500 | Deadline: December 31

There are many scholarships and colleges that want to know the number one thing you want people to know about you. Just one? That's it? "But I'm amazing," you say. We hear you, and we know that it's tough to narrow down your awesomeness into one measly reason.

APPLICANTS MUST:

- Write a 250-word essay about the monthly topic
- Be at least 14 years of age at the time of application
- Be a legal citizen of the U.S.

UCanGo2!

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and other federal laws and regulations, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services. This publication is issued by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, as authorized by 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3206, and is located at the following website: www.okcollegestart.org. This publication has been submitted in compliance with Section 3-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes. This publication was produced in June 2005.

Applicant must:

- Write a 250-word essay on the monthly topic
- Be 14 years of age, or older, at the time of application
- Be a legal citizen of the U.S. or D.C.

View scholarship information!





CONTACT US



405.234.4239

866.443.7420 (toll free)

UCanGo2@ocap.org