

HOW TO SEARCH FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

If there is a gap between the financial aid that a school offers you and the cost of attending that school, you may want to search for some private scholarships. Any scholarship you apply for requires some work on your part, and statistically you must apply for about ten for every one you earn. Most scholarships don't renew for the next year, so you'll need to keep applying for them, even when you're in college. And remember: do not pay for a scholarship search and do not apply for scholarships that ask only for your name and contact information for a drawing—those are just looking for your information, and the chance of receiving a scholarship is small.

The best scholarships to apply for are the ones for which you are most qualified. (Don't apply for a scholarship for Native American students from Arizona who want to study filmmaking if you are none of those things). Most scholarships have specific criteria—apply to the ones that fit you. Avoid sweepstakes scholarships that are awarded through a random drawing, which are usually just searching for your information, with only a small chance of winning.

Here are a few ways to find scholarships:

- Visit the CCC and look through *The Ultimate Scholarship Book* for scholarships that are a good fit.
- Look at the list of scholarships compiled by our college advisers. You can find a link on the CCC's website: www.tinyurl.com/cccgardy.
- Visit a scholarship search engine. There are many, but here are a few good ones:
 - Fast Web (www.fastweb.com)
 - College Board (www.bigfuture.com)
 - Tuition Funding Sources (www.tuitionfundingsources.com)
 - Niche (www.niche.com)
 - Scholly (www.myscholly.com) This web and app-based scholarship search engine actually has a small fee (\$2.99) but is worth the price.
 - United Negro College Fund (www.uncf.org)
- Conduct your own customized Google search for scholarships. Type in “scholarship” plus words that apply specifically to you, such as “left-handed,” “poetry,” “game design,” “juggler,” or “LGBTQ.” Search for specific medical conditions, learning differences, ethnic or cultural identity, military parent, etc. Search for scholarships using any terms that describe you, your hobbies or interests, your family, or what you may want to study. You'll be well qualified for the scholarships that turn up.
- Check with your parents' workplaces or your place of worship. Many offer scholarships.