

# Search for Scholarship Dollars

TEXAS ONCOURSE

## Scholarship Basics

Unlike student loans, scholarships are gift aid. This means you don't need to pay them back. A scholarship might cover the entire cost of tuition, or it might be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars.

Some scholarships for college are **merit based**. You can earn merit scholarships based on academic achievement or a combination of academics and a specific talent, trait, or interest. Scholarships can also be **need based**, meaning they are based on financial need.

It is also common for scholarships to be geared toward a particular group of people. For instance, there are scholarships granted based on gender, age, where you or your parents work, or background, like scholarships issued to children of military families.

## Searching for Scholarships

There are lots and lots of scholarship opportunities out there. How do you know where to start? Keep reading!

## Online Resources

You should consider using free scholarship search engines when you search for scholarships. Some of these search engines allow you to create a profile and enter your interests. This can help you narrow your search.

Check out these online resources for uncovering scholarship opportunities, vetted by Texas OnCourse.

- Sallie Mae Scholarship Search  
[www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/](http://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/)
- Unigo's Scholarships for High School Freshmen page  
[www.unigo.com/scholarships/high-school-students/scholarships-for-high-school-freshman](http://www.unigo.com/scholarships/high-school-students/scholarships-for-high-school-freshman)
- PrepScholar's Scholarships for High School Sophomores and Freshmen page  
<https://blog.prepscholar.com/scholarships-for-high-school-sophomores-and-freshmen>
- Cappex's Scholarship page  
[www.cappex.com/](http://www.cappex.com/)
- Scholarship.com's Scholarship Search  
[www.scholarships.com/](http://www.scholarships.com/)
- Raise.me  
[www.raise.me/](http://www.raise.me/)
- College Greenlight  
[www.collegegreenlight.com/](http://www.collegegreenlight.com/)
- CollegeXpress's 60 of the Weirdest College Scholarships page  
[www.collegexpress.com/lists/list/60-of-the-weirdest-college-scholarships/1000/](http://www.collegexpress.com/lists/list/60-of-the-weirdest-college-scholarships/1000/)
- The US Department of Labor's FREE CareerOneStop scholarship search tool  
[www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx)

## Offline Scholarship Resources

These organizations and resources often offer scholarship opportunities as well. Ask your counselor which you should look into.

- The financial aid office at a college or career school
- Your high school or TRIO counselor
- Federal agencies
- Your state grant agency
- Your library's reference section
- Foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, and civic groups
- Organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
- Ethnicity-based organizations
- PTA (Parent Teacher Association)
- Rotary Club
- School districts
- Retired teacher foundations
- Banks and credit unions
- Utility companies/providers
- Sorority and fraternity sponsors
- Memorial foundations

## Other Major Scholarship Opportunities

Ask your counselor if you're a match for the following scholarships, which offer \$20,000 or more to cover your cost of attendance.

- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship Program
- Coca-Cola Scholarship
- Horatio Alger Association
- Dell Scholars Program
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- United Negro College Fund
- The College Board Opportunity Scholarships
- The Gates Scholarship