



Suggestions for Researching Scholarships

1. Research scholarships offered at the colleges to which you apply. There are college/university specific scholarships that you will automatically be considered for as part of your financial aid package. Many schools also have scholarships that you need to apply for or be nominated for (if you need a nomination, ask for one) outside of the financial-aid application. Visit each school's financial aid and/or scholarship pages on their website and talk to admissions and financial aid professionals at the schools. Check early, these scholarships often have early deadlines.
2. Check out the scholarship booklet(s) (coming out soon) and email scholarship notices that I email to you. Also, use Naviance's National Scholarship search tool.
3. Use online resources such as FastWeb (www.fastweb.com), Cappex (www.cappex.com), Unigo (<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/by-state/massachusetts-scholarships>), Scholarships.com (www.scholarships.com), Student Scholarship Search (www.studentscholarshipsearch.com), Good Call (www.goodcall.com/scholarships/search/), Big Future (www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search), Chegg (www.chegg.com/scholarships), Peterson's (www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx)
Do not pay for search services; it is not necessary and may be a scam.
4. Go to the library or a bookstore and look through scholarship guidebooks. Online resources tend to give you a result list based on data that you have entered. While this is good, you don't know what scholarships were filtered out. *The Ultimate Scholarship Book* by Gen Tanabe and *Kaplan Scholarships* by Kaplan are packed with information.
5. **Google!** Use keywords that pertain to you. Be general and specific. Examples: music (or oboe) scholarships; art (or photography) scholarships; leadership (or student council) scholarships; athletic (or soccer) scholarships.
6. Apply to the **Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts**. (<http://www.communityfoundation.org/scholarships/>) The Community Foundation has many scholarships that directly relate to students from Western Massachusetts. This is a must! You may also be able to get an interest free loan through the Foundation. Applications are available in January (online); apply early!
7. Ask parents and family members to look into scholarships that are offered by their place of business. Many companies have scholarships for their employees and children/relatives of employees.
8. Keep your head in the game! Often students are worn out by the college application process and they don't bother to apply for scholarships. For this reason, many scholarships remain un-awarded.
9. Sometimes scholarships are geared toward high GPAs but that is not always the case. Remember, you may have the profile, skill, or talent that makes you the perfect candidate for a particular scholarship. Don't assume you won't qualify; it can't hurt to apply!
10. Cast a wide net, the more scholarships you apply for, the more likely you are to win.
11. **MEET DEADLINES!** Make sure to get application materials mailed in on time. Proofread essays and keep communication professional. Don't go through all of the effort of researching scholarships just to be sloppy about the application.
12. Some scholarships require an interview. If so, be polite, professional, and understand the purpose of the scholarship; be prepared to talk about how you fit the tenants of the scholarships. Send a handwritten thank you note to the interviewer ASAP!