

WHERE TO SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many free web-based scholarship search engines. Below are just a few national databases. Choose one that works best for you. Be sure to also check Naviance's scholarship database for national and local scholarships.



TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS:

•Institutional Academic Merit Scholarships

These scholarships are also very common. Academic merit scholarships are awarded, as the name suggests, on the basis of merit. If you have good grades and excellent test scores, you might qualify for this type of scholarship.

•National Merit Scholarship

There is an independent, non-profit corporation known as the "Merit Scholarship Corporation" and it awards nearly five thousand scholarships each year. To secure this scholarship, students have a competition of test scores, academic and extra-curricular activities, and school recommendations. You can enter this competition by taking your Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in the fall of your junior year in high school.

•Employer-Sponsored Scholarships

There are several corporations and businesses that offer scholarships to the children of their employees or to the students who are living within the community where the business or corporation is situated. Other businesses offer aid to students who are planning to major in fields that are related to the company's interests and that might later on prove to be valuable to them. A good way to find such scholarships is to ask your local library for assistance or look up these scholarships on the Internet.

•**Special Scholarships**

These are scholarships that are given for different purposes. Special scholarships are awarded for something you excel at, for instance leadership or artistic abilities. They are also awarded on the basis of financial need or if you belong to a certain ethnic group.

•**Community Organization Sponsored Scholarships**

There are several civic and community groups that offer scholarships and other assistance. These civic and community groups include the Boy Scouts, the Girls Scouts, the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the PTA et cetera. You should try to contact the different civic, religious, fraternal, patriotic, social and professional organizations in your community for further information regarding this kind of scholarship.

•**Professional, Career, and Trade Association-Sponsored Scholarships**

There are several scholarships that are provided by professional, career and trade associations. You can go to a library and ask for a directory that lists the scholarships and loans offered by such associations in your particular field of study. If there is something you excel at, you should also ask your coach or instructor about the colleges that are out on a look for students that have the talents you possess. Another idea is to browse through trade magazines to find leads on scholarships that are related to your special interests or skills.

•**Ethnic and Religious Scholarships**

Several ethnic organizations provide scholarships to outstanding students who belong to that particular ethnic background. There are also houses of worship and religious denominations that offer scholarships to students who plan to pursue a career in clergy.

•**Athletic Scholarships**

Athletic scholarships are very common and these scholarships are awarded on the basis of your athletic abilities. If you are a very good athlete, you may qualify for this type of scholarship.



Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Bright Futures is a state-sponsored scholarship program which provides money towards tuition at all public colleges/universities, as well as many private institutions, **in Florida** to graduating seniors who qualify. To see if you are eligible for Bright Futures go to <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college>.

To apply for Bright Futures, students must complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) after October 1st of their senior year at: www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org. By completing the FFAA, students will be evaluated for other state aid (grants and scholarships) both in and outside of the State of Florida, in addition to Bright Futures. The FFAA is the Bright Futures authorization form that allows students to be reviewed for Florida state aid while the FAFSA is for federal aid. Students should complete both applications. **It is a Broward County requirement that ALL graduating seniors complete the FFAA even if a student does not meet the criteria or plans to attend an out-of-state college or university.** The Bright Futures scholarship money is held for up to 3 years in the event that the student should return and attend a Florida university.

BEWARE of scholarship SCAMS! You should never have to pay for a scholarship opportunity.