

2020

Scholarship HELP!

Comprehensive scholarship assistance

TRiO Student Support Services provides a CORE service of scholarship assistance in this comprehensive resource packet. Use the information and links provided to complete any scholarship application. Drop-in workshop times will be announced throughout each year. As an enrolled TRiO SSS student, you can schedule a personalized assistance session with a Peer Mentor, advisor or counselor through Starfish. Consider bringing a “working application” to the workshop for personal assistance.



Table of Contents

<i>I.</i>	<i>Where to Start ...</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>II.</i>	<i>Get to Know Yourself ...</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>III.</i>	<i>How To:</i>	
	a. Fill out the Application ...	<i>Page 5</i>
	b. Gather Letters of Recommendation ...	<i>Page 8</i>
	c. Write the Essay ...	<i>Page 12</i>
	d. Find New Scholarships ...	<i>Page 14</i>
	i. Avoiding scams ...	<i>Page 15</i>
<i>IV.</i>	<i>Frequently Asked Questions ...</i>	<i>Page 16</i>
<i>V.</i>	<i>Additional Resources Online ...</i>	<i>Page 18</i>
<i>VI.</i>	<i>What's Next? ...</i>	<i>Page 20</i>

Where to Start

The Process of applying for any scholarship can be overwhelming and maybe a little scary. This packet is designed to walk you through the process, step-by-step, and to answer the most common questions so you can feel confident when submitting your application for *any* scholarship. Additionally, this packet and the hands-on workshop that is offered by TRiO Student Support Services program has the goal of increasing the number of scholarships you find and apply for on a yearly basis. In other words, you can increase your scholarship finding skills too. The more scholarships you apply for, the more likely you will be able to fund your educational goals successfully. **Let's begin!**

It is helpful to distinguish between the types of scholarships offered from other educational funding resources. Doing so will help you recognize how different scholarships work. A scholarship is a sum of money issued to a student that does not have to be paid back. These scholarships are generally used to further your educational goals by paying for any expenses you acquire while in school. It is not a loan or a grant, and you often **do not** apply for scholarships through the normal Financial Aid process. Scholarship monies can be donated/ sponsored by anyone, any organization, group, or association. This is one of the wonderful things about scholarships- the vast range of organizations, individuals, and associations that want to help others succeed in higher education is a large group of people. This means many, many options for scholarships are just waiting for you to discover them, apply, and win the award!

For more information regarding financial aid and the different types offered visit: studentaid.ed.gov

Most scholarships have a similar application and award process, but read the fine print on each application so you follow the directions precisely. The process is usually straight forward:

- 1) find the scholarships that you qualify for,**
- 2) follow the directions on the application,**
- 3) fill out the application carefully,**
- 4) write the personal statement essay,**
- 5) gather your letters of recommendation (sometimes they have a form, other times you must get a full letter written for you),**
- 6) request your transcripts to be sent/copied,**
- 7) prepare for an interview/audition if required,**
- 8) submit your application and all supporting documents ahead of schedule, do not wait until the last day, as many applications have to be submitted by mail and they need time to arrive by the due date.**

This packet will discuss the main scholarships available at Columbia College and show you how to find even more options. Columbia College has a single application for most of the scholarships available; this is handled through the Scholarship Office on campus, located in Manzanita building with the Columbia College Foundation. Get all the information you need at www.gocolumbia.edu/scholarships. The Scholarship Office offers a detailed step-by-step instructions PDF on their webpage that will walk you through the process, click by click.

There are some specialty scholarships (Fire Academy, Music, and Hospitality Management) that have additional requirements and different due dates. These can also be accessed online through the campus Scholarship Office webpage. Additionally, the Osher Scholarship has multiple recipients and has a separate due date than the main scholarship application each year. Please visit the Scholarship office webpage to log-in to the application and get started. We also want encourage you to move beyond the local scholarships to seek out regional and national awards too! **It is also important to look at potential scholarships from universities that you are looking to transfer to, which will be discussed later.**

Tips for success for the Columbia College Scholarship Application can be found [HERE](#).

Get to Know Yourself- win a scholarship award

When you know yourself well you can endorse yourself easily while writing your application and essay. Furthermore, knowing your strengths and weaknesses, skills and assets, and your short and long term goals will make your life easier all the way around. Completing any goal: education, employment, better relationships with friends/family-can all be enhanced with *Self-Exploration* techniques. Below is a list of tasks you can complete to get to know yourself better in order to write a scholarship essay or to even set new personal goals for yourself.

- Write a list of all your accomplishments in life, big and small. Use this list as inspiration for writing your essay.
- Interview your close friends, co-workers, supervisors, family you trust-to gain an outside perspective of your greatest attributes and talents. Let them take their time in answering or ask them to write their answers down.
- Write or update your resume to build confidence in yourself. The process of writing a proper professional resume will help you examine all you have to offer in the work-world.
- Take as many learning style and/or personality inventories as you have access to. This helps you to know more about what makes you tic, but also to determine how your perspective on life is unique from other students. Your uniqueness can earn you a scholarship award.
- List your future goals and prioritize them by short-term and long-term. Use these to show the scholarship committee how you will benefit from the funding you will receive.

The following are some skill and personality inventories (tests) you can take to help you identify your uniqueness:

www.eureka.org- available on computers in the Career Center on campus, Manzanita 14

www.act.org/workkeys/- this extensive test is sometimes required when applying for certain jobs. Visit the Mother Lode Job Connection or other “One Stop” centers in any county to take the free assessment.

Take the following brief online quiz to identify your learning style @ <http://www.edutopia.org/multiple-intelligences-learning-styles-quiz>

Also, take the following brief online quiz to find how you learn best @ <http://www.vark-learn.com/english/page.asp?p=questionnaire>

Finding a career can help you discover yourself. Take the assessment at <http://www.vault.com> and www.CaliforniaCareerZones.edu.

Creating a budget and finding out what kind of spender you are can also create insight to your personality. Create your own personalized budget at www.cashcourse.org.

How to Fill Out the Application

Helpful Tips for completing your scholarship applications

Read the Instructions

1. Many people's applications are discarded simply because they fail to follow the directions; read everything on the application at least twice before you start filling out the application. Then write it out in a draft format. Read it over again, with your answers in place, to make sure you haven't missed anything. As a final step, ask a trusted friend, peer mentor, counselor or professor to read it over; another set of eyes will always find something you might have missed. **For more information, you should check out this link:** <http://www.gocollege.com/financial-aid/scholarships/apply/>

Portray yourself in the best light by knowing what you have to offer the world (see the Get to Know Yourself section of this packet for more details). It is important to know how to emphasize your strengths by explaining what you have accomplished with your skill set and minimize your weaknesses by showing how you have learned from any mistakes made. *There is no such thing as a failure if you have learned a valuable lesson from the circumstances.*

Stay on target by sticking to the topic of essays and/or short answers you are asked to write for the application. According to www.gocollege.com,

It's amazing how many people's applications will be discounted because they can't seem to stay focused in their essays. Many applicants tend to think that showing their entire depth of knowledge on the topic is the way to show their worthiness. However, this just isn't true and doing so often excludes you from consideration altogether.

Contact the Organization

2. After finding a scholarship that suits your interests or needs, contact the organization for more details. They should have a valid e-mail address or phone number at which to contact them. If for some reason they do not, send them a letter detailing why you would be a worthy applicant and ask for information regarding their scholarship process. Again if there is absolutely no contact information, IT IS A SCAM! Make sure to keep the letter very short and to the point; they are not concerned about your entire life story.

<http://www.financialaidtips.org/majorscholarships.htm>

Remember, under no circumstances should you have to **pay** for your application. According to financial aid tips.com, "That's an added benefit of using [vetted scholarship search sites] for your scholarship search-it automatically filters out any scholarships that charge a fee. Do not fall victim to scholarship scams!"

Keep Track

3. An important success tool in developing your scholarship strategy is to plan and keep track of the whole process (*funding your education should be viewed as a full time job!*). This will follow you all the way through graduate school, should you choose to attend. Planning/tracking could involve making a schedule for the list of scholarships you plan on applying to, setting time apart to complete a certain number of scholarship applications each week and trying to start as early as possible. For example, a high school senior would want to start looking for college freshman scholarships in October of their senior year. Also remember to keep any profiles you created online up-to-date, like on scholarships.com. **You should devote a designated amount of time each week, looking for scholarships that you could apply for.**

Keep track of all your materials! Make copies of everything you turn in for a scholarship application. Turn in the documents in the order they are listed on the application; this shows your organizational skills. Most applications will include a letter of recommendation (**make copies**), transcripts, personal essay (**save these as they could be used for other scholarships**), cover letter, and a small photo. **They will not process your application until every single item is received.** Do not procrastinate.

<http://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarship-application-strategies/scholarship-application/>

Your application should be neat, clean, error free, and shows you have followed the directions perfectly! Do not wait until the deadline to submit, plan that something may not be ready- therefore, you know to start early on the process.

Do's & Don'ts- Scholarship Applications

DO start looking at these scholarships as soon as possible; it is never too early to start earning college funds.	DO NOT procrastinate, especially on items other people need to provide; i.e. letters of recommendation.
DO research these sites before applying, look out for scams.	DO NOT pay for an application, give out your credit card information, or bank account information.
DO read the instructions thoroughly.	DO NOT skip over information or assume that some things are “suggestions”, for example, an essay that is supposed to be 200 words should NOT be 215 words. THEY WILL NOTICE!
DO have a trusted friend proofread your personal essay.	DO NOT stray from the specific essay topic, doing so will almost surely disqualify you.
Do be efficient by reusing scholarship essays and personal statements.	DO NOT fail to read specific instructions before reusing essay; you may have to reword some things.

How to Gather Letters of Recommendation

Both student and Letter Writer (recommender) needs to understand a few key things before they ask or write a Letter of Recommendation for a scholarship application.

For the Student:

The letter of recommendation is a key aspect in your application and could make or break your chances for getting the scholarship. The fact that you even have someone willing to write you a good letter of recommendation shows that you have people who respect you and your accomplishments enough to vouch for you. **You should get into the habit of creating professional connections with your instructors like asking questions in class, meeting during office hours, or discussing a certain topic so you can be recognized beyond the rest of the class.** However, there are some guidelines for how to select the writing candidate for your letter.

1. The person needs to know you relatively well.
2. The person must be able to write well and think critically.
3. Make sure they can get it done in a timely manner.
4. Consider teachers and employers first- they can probably access your strengths and weaknesses most efficiently.

You need to review all the directions for the letter first. Then ensure the person you have asked to write the recommendation understands the requirements before they agree to write the letter. Make sure you are humble, polite, and courteous to your letter provider; after all they are doing *you* a service. http://www.scholarshiphelp.org/letters_of_recommendation.htm.

Important things to give the writer:

- Provide all the information your letter writer will need. Make sure that he or she has a written explanation of the topics to be covered in the application.
- Provide a list of your extracurricular activities.
- Provide a copy of the scholarship essay you wrote so the writer has a sense of your approach to the application process and gains a bit more insight into your life.
- If you think it is appropriate, provide a resume; this can give a quick reference to your letter writer.
- Give the letter writer a **THANK YOU** note as soon as possible after they have provided you with the letter. You might need more letters in the future.

Be sure to review the letter after it is written. All the requirements should be there and the content should be something you are willing to submit to a scholarship provider. According to scholarshiphelp.org there are some things to consider if this is not the case:

What if there is some other problem with the letter? The support is lukewarm or the letter is not well written. Weigh the facts. If the letter is

not supportive of you, look for another writer. If the contents won't win a Pulitzer Prize, but the message of your worthiness for the scholarship comes across, it's probably okay.

If this is the second time, or more, you are asking for a letter of recommendation, from the same person, consider letting the writer know that you will need additional letters from the very beginning. The writer can usually make simple adjustments to a saved copy of the letter and print a new copy for you each time you have a new scholarship application. This way the writer does not have to write from scratch each time and you receive a customized letter for the particular scholarship.

Consider asking as many people as possible to write letters. This way if one does not come through you have a back-up plan already in place. Remember to plan ahead; start early!

Columbia College now allows you to request letters of recommendation electronically through the scholarship application process on their website. Go to ...
<http://www.gocolumbia.edu/scholarships/>

For the Letter Writer:

Students- attach these helpful hints to your request for a letter of recommendation.

http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/students/scholarships/faculty_and_staff/resources/letter_recommendation.htm

Recommendations from Faculty or College Staff

1. Tell the student how strong a letter you feel you can honestly write for them; give them a chance to ask someone else if you cannot write a strong letter.
2. Ask for as much information from the student as possible (application form, due date, copies of work done in course, etc.). Review the scholarship application yourself, if possible.
3. Use a letterhead that matches your relationship with the student: Department stationery, House stationery, etc.
4. Explain how long, how well, and under what circumstances (course, House affiliation, employment) you have come to know the student. Why are you qualified to comment on him or her?
5. Give the recipients of the letter information about the aspects of student performance **THEY** care about; step into their shoes. Include those special features that will interest them.
6. Address aspects of the student's performance you know first-hand. Eyewitness accounts are more convincing than hearsay.
7. Support your generalizations with **SPECIFIC** details or anecdotes; help the reader imagine the student as you describe them. A purely general description is not useful.
8. End the letter with a summary paragraph recapping your main points; if possible, compare the student with others you have known.
9. Ask the student to let you know what happens to their application (you made the effort, you deserve some feedback).
10. Keep a hard copy of every letter you send, and a soft copy (plus backup) in a "Recommendation File" on your computer hard drive. Also note **WHEN** you send letters. This will **(A)** avoid your having to write the same letter again and **(B)** remind you of what you sent.

Copyright © 2002-2004 by the President and Fellows of Harvard College. Permission is granted to non-profit educational institutions to reproduce this document for internal use provided that the Bok Center's authorship and copyright are acknowledged. Adapted from "Writing Your First Letter of Recommendation," retrieved from <http://bokcenter.fas.harvard.edu/docs/TFTrecs.html> on January 4, 2005.

According to the following website that deals with writing letters for students in grad school, <http://gradschool.about.com/od/askingforletters/a/askletter.htm> , most professors typically look for the following information:

- Explain purpose of the letter
- Desired focus of the letter
- Useful skills the student possesses
- Related experience; work, volunteer activities, extracurricular activities, etc.
- Sample work/grades i.e. transcripts

<http://www.letters-of-recommendation.org/2-letters-of-recommendation-for-scholarships.htm>

This resource has some very helpful information about an underutilized aspect of letters of recommendation for scholarships- the Financial Need aspect. ***Review the site for complete details.***

A brief example of a scholarship recommendation letter-

http://www.lettersofrecommendation.net/Scholarship_Recommendation_Letter.php

Dear Scholarship Review Committee:

I am writing to urge you to seriously consider _____ for the _____ Scholarship.

I came to know _____ when she/he was a student in my _____ class. She/he immediately rose to the top of the class, distinguishing herself/himself as a bright, inquisitive, energetic scholar. She/he works hard by _____.

_____ is popular among students and professors alike. She/he works well independently, but is also someone everyone wants to collaborate with. She/he is able to keep projects on track while making sure everyone in her/his group is valued and included. For example, while working on _____ assignment she/he _____.

She/he is also especially mature and resourceful. When a _____ happened, she/he came up with several alternate ideas for _____, and ultimately the _____ and _____; resulting in the project moving forward as planned.

I am confident that through this scholarship _____'s hard work, dedication to academics, and her/his clear goal in _____ field will result in _____ in the future. She/he has overcome great hurdles already and this scholarship will allow her/him to make the final leap to a complete educational experience.

Without a doubt, _____ will continue to prove successful in future academic pursuits.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of _____ for the _____ scholarship.

Cordially,

Name, Title

Phone #, email address

How to Write the Essay- *Sometimes referred to as the Personal Statement*

A scholarship essay is a fundamental part of most scholarship applications because it sets you apart from the crowd. GPA, volunteer activities, and extracurricular activities are important, but most of the students you are competing against for scholarships will also have strong records in these areas. **Do not be discouraged if some of these areas are lacking!** The essay is your chance to shine as an individual; the key is how you word it and the impression that the words make. http://www.financialaidtips.org/writing_scholarshipessay.htm

[Financialaidtips.org](http://www.financialaidtips.org) gives this important piece of advice: *“Keep asking yourself if you'd find your essay compelling if someone else had written it, and you were on the final awards committee and reading it”* Ask yourself: would you give your money to someone in your situation, as it is explained in the essay? Remember, the selection committee doesn't know who you are, except through this essay and application. This first impression will be the only one you get. Take great care in detailing your individual traits as they relate to the essay topic given.

As you start to brainstorm and outline your essay keep in mind there are some subtle things the readers might think about when reading hundreds of essays. Such as, there is a delicate balance between showing what you have overcome to be a successful student and sounding like you have “saved the world” single handedly. Avoid making up tragic events to make yourself sound more appealing; this can only hurt you when writing your essay. Another balance to be mindful of in your essay is between your ability to work in a team, yet be an independent student. Clearly emphasize your leadership and initiative, as opposed to simply listing your accomplishments like community projects or GPA. Simply put: **BE HONEST, BE YOURSELF**. The details will win over readers; they want to know the **WHYS** and **WHATS**, not just the **WHEN** and **WHERE'S**. Telling a story (a narrative) is a great way to paint your life as an intriguing event the readers *want* to see with a happy ending- completing your education! See also, www.gocolumbia.edu/assets/pdfs/Tips_for_writing_ScholarshipStmnt.pdf

Ultimately, you should **consider building your “Academic Resume”** continuously, to ensure you have the required AND desirable attributes a scholarship donor or committees are seeking. This can be accomplished by setting personal goals on a regular basis; try each semester to start out. For example, many students have a goal to do their best in their courses but few of them set a goal to be more involved on campus, or to develop a good working relationship with a

tough professor, or maybe to answer your own research questions in their chosen field. These types of goals can lead to unique accomplishments and stories to help you develop deeper educational goals that gain attention from scholarship committees. Do your best so you can be rewarded!

Polishing tips

When it comes down to the final draft, review these polishing tips to make certain your paper is pristine and worthy of review by a scholarship committee.

<http://www.gocollege.com/financial-aid/scholarships/apply/essay-how-to.html>

1. Be thorough- give yourself time, doing less than your best is just a waste of time. An outline can help you lay out everything you want to include and then organize it in a way people actually want to read.
2. Be precise- don't just write something down in a list, cite specifics and examples to make the events more realistic.
3. Be honest- don't overdo it. For example, if it is an essay specifically geared toward music majors, do not make up any skills you do not possess just to get the award; this may be awkward if/when you have to complete an interview in person.
4. Be neat- your essay should always be typed in a reasonable font (11 or 12 font), the judges should never have to squint to read the essay. Follow the precise directions, but double spacing is usually customary.
5. Reread-a second opinion counts! Always be open to constructive criticism from friends critiquing your essay, and make time to check spelling and grammar carefully. AVOID SLANG, it is very unattractive to a scholarship committee.

Remember the [AAC \(Academic Achievement Center\)](#) is always open for review of essays. To ensure the highest quality essay for your scholarship application, the AAC should be your first stop after you have completed your first draft and your last stop after completing the final draft.

How to Find More Scholarships

- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- [Scholarshipamerica.com](https://www.scholarshipamerica.com)
- [CareerOneStop Scholarship Search](https://www.careeronestop.com/scholarship-search)
- [CaliforniaColleges.edu Scholarship Search](https://www.californiacolleges.edu/scholarship-search)
- [Bigfuture.collegeboard.org](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

These are just a few of the vetted (trusted) sites we recommend to get you started in your own searching process.

Here is a list of samples of **National scholarships**:

1. Coca-Cola scholarship-\$1,000 award available for community college students.
2. National merit scholar- High school juniors taking the PSAT.
3. Fulbright scholarship-award available for adults already graduated with a PHD.
4. Wal-Mart scholarships-millions of dollars offered annually in awards.
5. Target scholarship-several \$1,000 scholarships available for outstanding commitment to volunteer work and community service.
6. Bill Gates scholarship-check out his website www.gmsp.org; full ride scholarship offered!
7. Tylenol scholarship-scholarship award of up to \$10,000 for individuals interested in a healthcare major.
8. Horatio Alger scholarship- \$2,500 available to high school seniors.
9. Truman scholarship-available to college juniors and seniors majoring in law or public policy.

Other Local Scholarships to be aware of:

Please [visit this site](#) for the most up-to-date options locally (scroll to bottom of page).

[Click HERE](#) for specific TRiO eligible scholarships (see bottom of list).

How to Avoid Scams

<http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships/articles/54-10-scam-warning-signs>

March 05, 2009

Knowing these warning signs can keep you from being a scholarship scam victim.

- 1. Fees:** You should not have to pay to search for or apply for scholarships. Check out the free scholarship search at FastWeb.com.
- 2. Credit card or bank account information needed:** You should never have to give credit card or bank account information to award providers.
- 3. Scholarship guarantee:** No one can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship because no one can control scholarship judges' decisions. Also, be wary of "high success rates"—they usually do not refer to actual award winners.
- 4. Check multiple creditable sites for verification: like, FastWeb or College Board.**
- 5. No contact information:** Legitimate sponsors should provide contact information upon request. If the sponsor does not supply a valid e-mail address, phone number and mailing address (not a PO Box) after you've asked for one could be a sign of a scam.
- 6. Unsolicited scholarships:** If you are called/emailed (without signing up) to receive an award for which you never applied, be alert—it's most likely a scam.
- 7. Pressure tactics:** Do not allow yourself to be pressured into applying for a scholarship, especially if the sponsor is asking for money up front.
- 8. Sponsor goes out of their way to sound "official":** Scammers sometimes use official-sounding words like "National," "Education" or "Federal" or they display an official-looking seal to fool you into thinking they are legit. Check with your school if you have questions about the scholarship provider's legitimacy.
- 9. Your questions aren't answered directly:** If you can't get a straight answer from a sponsor regarding their application, what will be done with your information or other questions, proceed with caution.

Rules to learn by

<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/protecting.phtml>

How to tell if a scholarship is legitimate

<http://www.gocollege.com/financial-aid/scholarships/apply/fake-scholarships.html>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on scholarships

1. My scholarship donor needs verification that I am enrolled before they will send the check. What do I do? A: [Contact Admissions and Records to provide verification](#)
2. My scholarship donor needs to know where to send my scholarship check. What do I tell him/her? A: [Depending on the donor/sponsor \(who provided the funds\), they will want the award disbursed through our Financial Aid office, so they can ensure you are attending school as you said you would. Give this address: 11600 Columbia College Dr. Sonora, CA 95370, Attn: Financial Aid/Scholarship Office.](#)
3. I received a letter/flyer/postcard offering me a scholarship search and guaranteeing a scholarship. They are charging a fee. Do I take advantage of this? A: [There are many scholarship search services available. As a rule, we do not recommend paying a fee for any of them. See also "Avoiding scams" section in this packet.](#)
4. Is it possible to receive financial aid AND scholarships? A: [Yes; also see question #5.](#)
5. Does receiving a scholarship affect other financial aid? A: [Yes, there are two main ways your scholarship income MAY effect other assistance funds. 1\) Scholarship funds must be counted towards your total Financial Aid package and it reduces your overall "need". At Columbia College the cost of attendance is about \\$18,000. If after filling out your FAFSA they determine you have a need of \\$10,000 and you receive \\$5,000 in scholarship funds your need would be reduced to \\$5,000 overall. 2\) Students receiving county assistance \(cash aid, TANF, Food stamps, etc.\) will have to claim scholarship funds as income \(*see Financial Aid office for full details*\) but often the income is exempted \(contact your county worker to ask for more details\).](#)
6. Do I have to report an *outside Columbia College* scholarship to anyone? A: [YES! Contact the Financial Aid/Scholarship Office as soon as possible. Starting spring of 2012, students will be deregistered from courses if they have not paid fees within 10 days of registering. If you do not have an exemption from this deregistration process, by being approved for Financial Aid or having received a Columbia College Scholarship award, you must pay your fees within ten days.](#)
7. Are there deadlines for scholarships? A: [Yes there are! All scholarships have deadlines and those deadlines vary. Be sure you start early. Remember to allow yourself time to complete essays, resumes, and other materials that may have to accompany your application. Also, check whether the deadline is "postmarked by" or "received by," as this will affect the timing of your application.](#)
8. What are my chances of receiving a scholarship? A: [Scholarships are available for nearly anyone who is willing to put in the time to research the available sources and to complete the application process. No student is guaranteed a scholarship, but students are encouraged to apply for as many scholarships as possible. TRiO students often represent at least 50% of the recipients here at Columbia because we work so closely with students to fill out the application and essay properly. So you may have a better chance that you think!](#)

9. What are the requirements to receive a scholarship? A: There is a wide range of criteria for scholarships. Many are based on academic merit. Remember that while grades are often important, donors also focus on things like: leadership, athletic ability, talent in the fine arts, abilities in math or foreign languages, nontraditional students, veterans, financial need, specific major/career choice, units accomplished, obstacles overcome in pursuing higher education, family/cultural background. Many times students must be enrolled at least in 6 units but often in 12 or more to receive scholarships.

10. How can I improve my scholarship potential? A: **Build your "Academic Resume"**. What does that mean...? **Work to achieve and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA** (go visit the AAC if you need to improve!). **Become involved** (Student Organizations and/or Community Service Opportunities, visit the Student Center in Ponderosa One and speak with a Student Government Representative to find out more). **Become a leader** (this comes naturally when you get involved and/or take a leadership class- see Guidance Dept.); Discover and nurture your talents (see Your TRiO advisor or academic counselor for career counseling, take assessments in the Career/Transfer Center). **Challenge yourself to go beyond!** Push yourself to learn and grow even more. You will be pleasantly surprised by the amount of things you can achieve when you have a whole team of people supporting you and encouraging you (your TRiO SSS team is here to help!).

11. Is there a limit to how many scholarships or how much scholarship money I can receive in a year? A: Not really. Sometimes there are limits associated with state and federal financial aid, athletic, ROTC, or tuition only scholarships, but other than that, apply for as many as you can!

12. How many years can I receive scholarships? A: It may depend on the type of scholarship. Some may have time or repeat limits. They will say this in their qualifications section of the application. For Columbia College & Osher applications, you must apply each year. Disbursements may be split between the fall and spring terms. Generally, the Osher scholarship can only be received twice.

13. What is the difference between grants, work-study, loans and scholarships? A: Generally, you apply for grants, work-study, and loans through **FAFSA.gov** (Financial Aid office). At Columbia you apply for scholarships through the online application- follow instructions/deadlines CAREFULLY! Other scholarships, not connected to our campus, are available online, through local organizations, and businesses- see the **Find New Scholarships** section of this packet. When you transfer to a University there may be two different offices- Financial Aid and Scholarships or they might be combined. Often, large universities use your FAFSA application to screen you for certain large scale scholarships. They can pair university specific scholarship with your financial aid award package that way. But you should still check your department's (your specific major when you transfer) website for additional scholarships and check with local organizations and search websites once you transfer to a new school; scholarships can vary greatly by region/location. Check the school's website for details- they will always have information posted online.

Scholarship Links

<http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/students/scholarships/>

<http://www.gocollege.com/financial-aid/scholarships/>

<http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>

<http://www.cappex.com/>

<http://schoolscholarships.org/college-scholarship-for-all-types-of-students>

<http://scholarshipamerica.org/about.php>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

http://scholarshipamerica.org/open_scholarships.php

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/states/california.htm>

www.icanaffordcollege.com/en-us/financialaidinfo/typesofaid.aspx

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/subject-specific.htm>

<http://www.fastaid.com/>

<http://www.californiacolleges.edu>

California State University Scholarships

This list shows different California State Universities (CSUs). First determine if the school has the major you are interested in (which can be found at (www.assist.org)) and then follow the link and navigate your way to their Financial Aid Office and look for scholarships through the college.

[California State University, Bakersfield](#)

[California State University Channel Islands](#)

[California State University, Chico](#)

[California State University, Dominguez Hills](#)

[California State University, East Bay](#)

[California State University, Fresno](#)

[California State University, Fullerton](#)

[Humboldt State University](#)

[California State University, Long Beach](#)

[California State University, Los Angeles](#)

[California Maritime Academy](#)

[California State University, Monterey Bay](#)

[California State University, Northridge](#)

[California State Polytechnic University, Pomona](#)

[California State University, Sacramento](#)

[California State University, San Bernardino](#)

[San Diego State University](#)

[San Francisco State University](#)

[San José State University](#)

[California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo](#)

[California State University San Marcos](#)

[Sonoma State University](#)

[California State University, Stanislaus](#)

University of California Scholarships

This list shows different University of California Schools (UCs). First determine if the school has the major you are interested in (which can be found at (www.assist.org) and then follow the link and navigate your way to their Financial Aid Office and look for scholarships through the college.

[UC Berkeley.edu](#)

[UC Davis.edu](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UCLA.edu](#)

[UC Merced.edu](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UC San Francisco](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)

What's Next

- Columbia College Scholarship office offers workshops each fall term. Start the application BEFORE you attend and bring your specific questions to the workshop. Check the schedule here:
www.gocolumbia.edu/student_services/student_success_workshop
- For essay review, see the [Academic Achievement Center](#) and/or the TRiO Peer Mentors, Counselors, or Director for an appointment; call 588-5066.
- “Hands-on” assistance with completing the Columbia College scholarship application can be accessed through your TRiO Peer Mentors and/or the Student Ambassadors in the Career/Resource Center.

Remember, don't stop applying- make each application a learning experience and improve your application each time!!! The more you build your “Academic Resume” through a high GPA, leadership projects, community service, employment skills, and exploring your educational field you will dramatically increase your chances of being awarded a scholarship.