

Scholarship Search Tips

Places to look for scholarships

- **Businesses**-Sometimes businesses offer scholarships to employees and children of employees.
- **Charitable groups**-There are several charitable groups that are looking for qualified medical and health science students to offer grants and scholarships to. Easter Seals, March of Dimes, and the National Epilepsy Foundation are good places to start if you feel you may be interested in a charitable group scholarship.
- **Community organizations**-If you or a parent belong to a community organization, you may qualify for a scholarship. Some community organizations also offer scholarships to students who do not belong to the organization, but meet specific requirements. Look for groups such as a Rotary Club, Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Elks Club and VFW.
- **Ethnic and cultural organization** – There may be an organization related to your ethnic and cultural heritage that's interested in encouraging higher education or developing leaders. Examples are the Organization of Chinese Americans and the Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation.
- **Employers** – Check with the human resources staff where your parents work. If you work part-time, check with your employer to see if they offer scholarships for student workers. National employers like McDonald's, Burger King and Subway do this.
- **Honors societies**-Are you a member of an honor society? If you are, there is an excellent chance that they offer scholarships to their qualified members. Call your local chapter for more information.
- **Private foundations and charities** – Each year Community Foundations, throughout the state and across the U.S., award thousands of dollars in scholarships to their residents. Sometimes select scholarships are also available for residents of other counties, U.S. citizen, or certified permanent residents in Michigan. Below are a few links to local Community Foundations: www.forgoodforever.org (Michigan), [Charity Wire](#), [Community Foundation Locator](#), [Network for Good](#) or [Volunteer Match](#).
- **Professional organizations**-Various professional organizations offer money to qualified applicants. Some examples are the Michigan Bankers Association, Michigan Education Association, and Michigan Association of Realtors.
- **Professional or trade associations** – Look at associations related to your career interests as well as any that your parent belong to, since they may award scholarships to dependents of members. The following website offers a search of local and national trade union scholarships. www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing/union-plus-scholarship
- **Military**-If you are interested in practicing in the military/ROTC.
- **Religious organizations**– Contact both local and national headquarters.
- **Sports/Professional sport teams** – Many local booster clubs and recreation sporting groups offer college scholarships. Some examples include the National Youth Bowling League, The National Rifle Association (NRA) and the American Youth Golf Association. Also, professional sport teams often sponsor students in local areas. Some even have community foundations.

Important Tips

- It is most effective to apply for scholarships that have specific criteria that you meet. The more focused your search, and the more specific the scholarship, the greater your chance of success.
- Do not use any scholarship service that charges a fee. Not all of these organizations are legitimate, and those that are legitimate provide a service that you could do yourself for free.
- It is up to you to be assertive in searching for, applying for, and following up with scholarship programs. Be persistent. Most students will find their efforts are well worth it.
- Apply for as many scholarships as you feel you are qualified for, even those that do not have a huge monetary value. Small scholarships save you big money in the long run.
- Start as early as possible. Create a separate email account just for your scholarship search.
- Focus on local and regional scholarships before you apply to national scholarships. You are more likely at being more successful in securing a scholarship that is closer to where you reside.
- Do not use search terms like “college scholarships” when using internet search engines. The results will be scams. Instead use terms like “Michigan Association of XXX”, or Michigan “Chemistry Scholarships”.
- Keep your resources on hand so you can apply for the programs in your second year of study.