

Navigating the Scholarship Process

AKA How do I get free money for college?

Always be aware of deadlines and dates for submitting scholarship applications. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)-many scholarships require this be completed to apply www.fafsa.ed.gov

So how do you start to look for scholarships?

- Create an email address just for scholarships so you will have everything in one place
- Use Search Engines that provide free scholarship searches
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.scholarships.com
 - www.highfivescholarships.com
 - www.studentscholarships.org
 - www.chooseohiofirst.org
- Check your college or university website for school specific scholarships
- Visit your home school Counselor or website for school or community-specific scholarships
- At the Career Center, check the electronic boards, the scholarship wall outside Mrs. Garverick's office, or for links to local scholarships, as well as to each home district, visit <https://www.acwhcc.org/student-resources/student-awards-and-scholarships>
- Talk to your parents about scholarships available through their work or clubs/organizations in which they are members
- Check the county or community foundation where you live
 - Holmes and Wayne County students www.waynecountycommunityfoundation.org
 - Ashland County students www.accommunityfoundation.org
 - Holmes County students <https://hcef.net/scholarship-info-application>
 - Richland County students <https://www.richlandcountyfoundation.org/>

Wait, how do you know if a scholarship is legit? There are warning signs you can look for to avoid a scam-look for these key things when researching a scholarship:

- Application fees: legitimate scholarships do not require an application fee
- Other fees: never spend more than the cost of a stamp to get information about scholarships and loans for college
- Guaranteed winnings: no legitimate scholarship sponsor will guarantee an award
- We apply on your behalf: to win a scholarship, you must be the one to do the application, write the essay, and request letters of recommendation
- Personal information: NEVER give out personal information such as your social security number, credit card number, or checking account info

A great resource on all things needed to pay for college is

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>