

Outside Scholarships Simple Guide



Private scholarships typically come from corporations, non-profits, and community organizations, and are generally quite small. *It is a common misconception that you can apply to college anywhere, and then make up funding gaps with outside scholarships.* If funding college is a concern, then the list should be developed with this in mind to maximize potential for need or merit aid.

That being said, private scholarships are stackable (can be added to each other) and portable (can go anywhere) unlike most institutional scholarships, and are definitely worth putting the time and effort if you have it. But it's like having a part time job to research, organize, and apply so you need a system, and a plan. The bottom line with private scholarships is to enjoy what you can get, but don't expect to make a big dent in the cost of school. **Note that I do not search for scholarships on behalf of students, and I am here to support eligibility requirements such as scholarship essays.*

Tips:

- Use an organized spreadsheet to capture requirements and deadlines, and cast a wide net
- Follow all guidelines and directions exactly as stated for each award
- Ensure that you are qualified to apply
- Proofread every section and have two other pairs of trusted eyes do the same
- Maintain a clean online presence, as scholarship judges are watching
- **Don't pay for a scholarship search service**
- Create a new email address dedicated solely to scholarships
- Start early! Here are some early outside scholarship prep tips:
https://how2winscholarships.com/college-scholarship-tip-friday-pre-scholarship-prep/?ap_id=Road2College/
- Use a combination of websites to maximize your chances of finding scholarships
- When searching online, fill out profiles 100%, and narrow your search using key words like "chemical engineering scholarships"
- Borrow a book from the library like "The Ultimate Scholarship Search Book"

Remember that there is no "one and done" method of applying for scholarships. Many sources should be investigated!

Where to look?

Start locally! Local scholarships are offered to students who live in certain areas and have less competition than bigger, nationally known awards. You should look locally and apply for every one you are eligible for.

- Check your high school website and College/Career center

- Look at local community foundations, banks, credit unions, hospitals, law offices, civic groups, scout troops, professional organizations, clubs, and restaurants.
- Read the local newspaper to find out what scholarships students are currently and add them to your list
- Look at the websites of colleges in your area for more suggestions or to see what local students are winning

Consider your own personal “brand” or “niche” like talents (photography, creative writing), ethnicity, possible college major, activity (such as volunteering or playing a certain sport), attributes (having red hair), club membership (FIRST Robotics, Scouts, Elks Club).

Go here for good online search resources:

<https://www.road2college.com/best-scholarship-search-sites/> and
<http://www.gardenshedcollegecoach.com///resources/financial-resources/>

Build a profile at a FREE and REPUTABLE search site like:

Cappex
Scholarship Owl
Going Merry
FastWeb

My website has links for all of these! www.GardenShedCollegeCoach.com

If you love this project, have the time, and want to go deeper,
ask about the Outside Scholarship Deep Secrets Guide