Scholarship Application Tips

Ways to get scholarships

* Ask your counselor for a list of scholarships
* Naviance.com
	+ Naviance is an American college and career readiness software provider that partners with high schools and other K–12 institutions to provide students with college planning and career assessment tools.
	+ If your school does not use Naviance, ask your counselor what does your school use for a college and career readiness program.
* Local Business Scholarships
* Community Service Scholarships
* Church Scholarships
* Sororities and fraternities
* Parent’s companies
* Network with other people to find more opportunities

Websites for Scholarship Searches

1. Fastweb.com

<https://www.fastweb.com/>

1. Scholarships.com

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

1. Scholly.com

<https://myscholly.com/>

1. Bigfuture.Collegeboard.org

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

1. Cappex.com

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

Important Basics for Recognizing Scholarship Scams

* Never provide financial information.
* Do not pay for information, to apply for the scholarship, or to receive the scholarship. You should never have to give money to apply for or receive a scholarship.
* Always use reputable sources for your search. Many phony websites are set up to trick you into providing personal or financial information.
* Know that you can find all information about scholarships yourself. This information is freely available, and you do not need special access to get it.

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## **Scams To Look Out For**

 

**"Guaranteed or Your Money Back!"**

No company can guarantee that you will receive a scholarship — ever. The only people who can guarantee that you will receive a scholarship are members of a scholarship committee — when they are notifying you that you have won. Shady companies may promise that they can get you a scholarship, but their "guarantee" may come with so many caveats that it's impossible to ever meet them all to collect on your refund if you don't get a scholarship. If anyone promises to get you a scholarship, that's a red flag that you shouldn't work with them.

 

## **"You've Been Selected!"**

These are just the words you want to hear — when you've actually applied for a scholarship. However, when you haven't applied for a scholarship but you receive an e-mail or letter telling you that you will get one, that's a big warning sign that you're dealing with a scam. Typically, the company just wants to collect your personal information or get money from you. Remember: You can only win legitimate scholarships when you actually apply for them.

 

## **"It Will Only Cost—"**

As mentioned above, searching for or applying for a scholarship should never cost money. Ever. Some services may charge money to help you conduct your search, but these services only have access to information that is freely available. Any attempt to charge you for information or to charge you to "hold" the scholarship is a scam.

 **"We Have Exclusive Access."**

No one has exclusive access to scholarship information. All information about scholarships can be freely found online. Anyone who claims to have access to a secret database is lying and likely is trying to charge you money for the "exclusive" information. In many cases, these companies never actually provide any information at all — they just take your money and run.

 

## **"We'll Do All the Work for You."**

No company can do all the work for you. All they can do is provide you a list of potential scholarships to which you can apply. You have to fill out and submit all of your own applications. Companies who claim to "do all the work for you" are just trying to charge you for a Google search.

## **"You Just Need to Attend Our Scholarship Seminar."**SeminarSM

A "scholarship seminar" is typically going to be an information session in which representatives pressure you into buying some product, such as a scholarship search service or a resume formatting service. In some cases, the product may not even be related to your scholarship search at all. It could be something like a timeshare or life insurance. These sessions include high-pressure sales tactics and can be very uncomfortable to leave without buying anything. Just don't go.

 

## **"Act Now!"**

Other than submitting your application by the deadline, there is no reason you should ever have to "act now" to get a scholarship. If you are selected for a scholarship, it will be yours. Companies who want you to "act now" are typically trying to get your financial information.

## **…Other Warning Signs To Be Aware Of:**

* Any attempt to get your financial information or payment for any reason whatsoever. This information will never be requested by legitimate scholarship opportunities.
* Promises for a low-interest student loan for a fee. Legitimate student loans are offered through the federal government, bank lenders and some other private institutions, and none of them require that you pay anything other than the interest charges that you will accumulate over the life of the loan.

**Website:** [**http://www.collegescholarships.org/scam.htm**](http://www.collegescholarships.org/scam.htm)