Paying for College: Apply for Scholarships

Did you know?
Scholarships are not just for high school seniors or current college students! For example, these scholarship providers open applications to students in kindergarten:
- My529™ Make Your Mark
- My529™ Book Your Summer
- Doodle4Google™

Who provides scholarships?
- State and local government
- Technical colleges, community colleges, and universities
- Community organizations, school districts, and K-12 schools
- Companies and corporations
- Private donors

Getting Started

1. School counseling or guidance office
   - Ask: “Who can I talk to about scholarships in high school?”
   - Set up a time to meet and be prepared with questions
   - Apply to as many scholarships as possible

2. Apply through your college or university
   - Scholarships upon admission
     - Many Utah colleges have automatic scholarship opportunities when students apply
     - Some colleges do have separate scholarship applications
   - Departmental scholarships
   - Leadership scholarships
   - Private scholarships

3. Explore employer-sponsored tuition
   - Tuition reduction
     - Employer benefits that provide reduced tuition
   - Tuition reimbursement
     - Employer benefits that reimburse employees for tuition costs
   - Employee scholarships
   - Both parents’ or students’ employers may offer this benefit

4. Community scholarships
   - Many community organizations and local businesses provide scholarship opportunities.
     - Inquire at your credit union
     - Check with local businesses
     - Ask community organizations
   - Local scholarships can increase chances of earning the award
   - Apply for small scholarships, too, $250-1,000 scholarships can reduce out-of-pocket costs

5. Online scholarship search
   - An online search for scholarships can go a long way. Just be aware of scams and fraudulent applications. Never pay to apply for a scholarship. If a website looks sketchy, then just leave and move on to an official site.

6. File the FAFSA
   - Although the FAFSA doesn’t give scholarships, it may be required to qualify for scholarships.
   - Commonly, scholarships requiring the FAFSA are based on need. However, that isn’t always the case.
   - An example would be the Opportunity Scholarship, which is merit-based.

Additional Resources

USHE.edu/state-scholarships-aid
KTSutah.org
MyScholly.com
BigFuture.collegeboard.org/scholarships
Unigo.com
Chegg.com/scholarships
Goingmerry.com
Fastweb.com
Scholarships.com
Cappex.com
Niche.com
CareerOneStop.org

SCHOLARSHIP TYPES
- Merit-based scholarships
- Need-based scholarships
- Athletic scholarships
- Activity-based scholarships
- Identity-based scholarships
- Field of study scholarships
- Creative or artistic scholarships
- Military scholarships