

## Scholarship Searches

### I. General Information on Scholarships

#### A. Scams

1. Be careful, they are out there.
2. **Red Flags – Fees**  
Scholarship organizations that are legitimate are free. Any that charge fees for their services are a scam.
3. Do NOT give out your social security number. Some scholarships are directly deposited into your college/university account. Contact your college/university and ask them what information is necessary for the donor to be able to deposit the scholarship in your account. (Unless the school uses your social security number as an ID, and most do not anymore, there is no reason to give out that information.)
4. Google/other search engines can help.  
→ If you ever have a doubt about whether an organization is legitimate, try using a search engine (ie. Google) to run a fact check. Enter in quotations, information about the organization and the word scam. If it is a scam, then you are likely to get several hits.

#### B. Applicant Pool – Smaller is Better

1. The fewer people you have to compete against the better.
2. Weeding out Applicants- Watch for scholarships that require a lot of hard work. Essays will help reduce your applicant pool; many students do not want to write essays.
3. Career Specific Scholarship- look for scholarships related to your top career choices=small applicant pool.
4. Major/Program Specific Scholarships-look for scholarship that are only for specific majors (ie. Nursing, Mechanics, Engineering, English, etc.)
5. College/University Specific Scholarships- look for scholarships that are offered strictly to students attending your college or university. These are usually the largest scholarships and most are renewable over four years provided you maintain a specific gpa.
6. Hobbies- Look for scholarships related to your personal interests and hobbies.
7. Parent Occupation Connections – Many companies and businesses offer scholarships to children/grandchildren of their employees.
8. Service Organization/Extracurricular Scholarships- look for scholarships related to groups you are a part of, examples include FFA, Boy Scouts, 4-H, and Sports.
9. Local Scholarship/Bay Foundation/FAFSA/Parchment/Career Cruising/Scholarship Listing – These are all readily available to you. Use them.
10. Counselor's Corner – Check Scholarship Listing. It is updated regularly.

#### C. FAFSA – Federal Financial Aid Application

1. This is sometimes required as part of a scholarship application.
2. January 1<sup>st</sup> is when you can start the FAFSA application.\*\*\*\*changes coming
3. Online application, however a helpful worksheet is available.
4. Try to complete it by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. There is no true deadline, be aware that monies are passed out beginning in March. If you apply after March 1<sup>st</sup>, then you could miss out on some of the grants. So, still apply after March 1<sup>st</sup>, it will not be too late. However, PELL Grants are always available to those who qualify.
6. Delta College Financial Aid has several outstanding Financial Aid Officers available to help any student regardless of college choice. They can be contacted at (989) 686-9080.

7. It is a good idea to contact the financial aid office of the college you plan to attend.
8. It is easiest to get your taxes done first. Most of the information you need for FAFSA is on those documents. If you estimate your tax information on the FAFSA, you will have to return to the site and update the information after your tax form is completed.\*\*\*\*changes coming

#### D. T.I.P.

1. If you qualify for T.I.P., make sure the college/university you are interested in participates with this program.
2. Check out the T.I.P. website. Check out the college website. Ask the financial aid office at the college you're interested in.
3. Find out exactly what is covered.
4. Remedial classes (high school level) are not generally covered.

#### E. SSC Counselor Help

1. Mr. McPherson and Mrs. Proulx can be contacted the following ways:
  - a. Phone: 989-846-3660 (high school number)
  - b. Email: [jmcperson@standish-sterling.org](mailto:jmcperson@standish-sterling.org) or [pproulx@standish-sterling.org](mailto:pproulx@standish-sterling.org)
  - c. FAFSA questions will be referred to the college financial aid personnel; you will require help from the experts on this.

#### F. Search Engines

1. There are several scholarship search engines that can be very helpful.

- II. [College Xpress](#)
- III. [College Scholarships](#)
- IV. [Fast Web](#)
- V. [Mach 25](#)
- VI. [Scholarship Experts](#)
- VII. [Super College](#)
- VIII. [Scholarships.com](#)
- IX. [Unusual Scholarships](#)

This list was taken from the Ferris State University website.

You make an account, answer some questions about yourself, and the site matches you to possible scholarships.