

Scholarship Information

College takes drive, passion and resources. We recognize that families often need to look outside their immediate resources in order to help their students take full advantage of the Hood College experience. It is the mission of the Office of Financial Aid to help you and your family develop a financial plan to make your education attainable. Below is a list of various scholarship resources to consider:

Scholarship Search Engines:<https://collegeboard.org>www.central-scholarship.orgwww.salliemae.com/plan-for-college<https://myscholly.com>www.cappex.com<https://fastweb.com>www.petersons.comwww.gocollege.comwww.unigo.comwww.chegg.com/scholarshipsScholarship Websites:www.hsf.net/scholarship - Hispanic Scholarship Fundwww.asa.org - American Student Assistancewww.uncf.org - United Negro Fundwww.gmsp.org – Gates Millennium Scholars Program<https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx> - Department of Labor ScholarshipsState:www.mhec.maryland.gov - State of Marylandwww.osse.dc.gov - District of Columbia<https://www.doe.k12.de.us> - State of Delawarewww.riopc.edu - State of Rhode Islandwww.vsac.org - State of VermontFrederick County:www.cffredco.org - Community Foundation of Frederick Countywww.fwccinc.org/education - The Frederick Women's Civic Clubwww.frederickrotaryclub.org - The Frederick Rotary ClubMilitary:www.benefits.va.gov - Department of Veterans Affairswww.ebenefits.va.gov – Department of Veterans Affairs, Educational Benefits Statuswww.armyscholarshipfoundation.org - Army Scholarshipswww.vfw.org - Veterans of Foreign Warswww.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships - Army ROTC Scholarships

The Office of Financial Aid at Hood College provides information regarding outside scholarship searches as a courtesy to students and families. Hood College does not endorse any private scholarship search websites. Although we have made an effort to ensure these scholarship search websites are legitimate, this does not imply that Hood College or the Office of Financial Aid agree with the material contained on or links provided by the websites.

Tips for Scholarships

Scholarships can be found in several ways; contacting your high school counselor, public library, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups.

Search Tips

Searching for private scholarships can be time intensive. Make it easier by having a system to find and apply for these opportunities!

- Open an email account specifically for scholarships using a professional name and check the account frequently
- Start a spreadsheet to track deadlines and application requirements
- Make sure your resume is updated

Application Tips

Keep your information updated. If you have a LinkedIn profile or a resume, make sure it's up-to-date.

Be concise. Instead of listing everything you've ever done, highlight the activities you would like the donor to know about you.

Show initiative. Donors who invest in a student's future like to reward those who show initiative. If you have started your own business, created a club, or organized clubs or an event, highlight it!

Essay Tips

Do:

- Tailor your essay to each application to address specific questions or topics
- Be creative, organized and succinct
- Get feedback from a trusted mentor
- Proofread

Don't:

- Use slang or jargon
- Compare yourself to other students
- Submit the same essay for multiple applications

TIPS FOR WRITING A WINNING SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Scholly website, Posted September 19, 2020

myscholly.com/how-to-write-a-scholarship-essay/

Tips for Recommendation Letters

Many private scholarships ask for a recommendation letter. The best letters come from someone (not a parent) who can speak not just to your accomplishments, but can applaud your character, work ethic and professionalism to showcase your intangible, positive character traits.

To get a great recommendation letter:

- Provide the recommender with a description of the scholarship and a list of skills or qualities that are important to highlight
- Give the reference a current copy of your resume and at least two weeks' notice for when the letter is due

Final Steps

- If you receive a scholarship, write a thank you letter to the donor
- Inform the Office of Financial Aid about the awarded scholarship

Beware of Scams!

Make sure scholarship information and offers you receive are *legitimate*. Remember that you don't have to pay to find scholarships. Avoid any scholarship that asks for application or processing fees. Check out studentaid.gov/resources/scams for information on how to avoid scams.