



Scholarships

Scholarships can significantly reduce the cost of attending college. Most scholarships require students to actively seek out the opportunity and apply. Below are tips for you as you begin your scholarship search.

Start Early

- ❖ Begin researching scholarships early in high school. Knowing the requirements for merit-based scholarships will allow you time to achieve the requirements while still in high school.
- ❖ Scholarship applications often need to be submitted up to a year in advance of the fall semester.
- ❖ If a deadline has passed, add a reminder to your calendar for the next year so you can apply next time it is offered.

Start Local

Consider the following local places to begin:

- ❖ Your high school - check with your guidance counselor.
- ❖ Employers - Check with your employer or your parents' employers to see if they offer scholarships. You might even consider a part-time job where you know scholarships are offered.
- ❖ Religious Groups - many religious organizations offer scholarships to its members.
- ❖ Community Foundations - these organizations exist to distribute money (e.g. scholarships) in local communities. Community Foundations exist for Greater Buffalo, the Rochester Area, Central New York, the Greater Capital Region, and Brooklyn.
- ❖ New York State Higher Education Services Corporation – awards scholarships to qualifying NYS residents - www.hesc.ny.gov

Go National

Once you have explored your local options, go national! Sign up for scholarship matching databases which will match your profile to millions of scholarships. A few reputable scholarship databases include:

- ▶ FastWeb.com ▶ Petersons.com

Keep Trying

Don't be discouraged if you are not selected after your first attempt. Many opportunities exist, so keep trying!

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

First Year Merit-Based Scholarships:

- **Presidential and Provost Scholarships** are awarded automatically at the time of admission to new first year students.
- **Muriel A. Howard Honors Program:** Recipients are chosen at the time of admission; recipients are often Presidential or Provost Scholars, too.

View First Year Scholarship Requirements and Award Amounts:

financialaid.buffalostate.edu/first-year

CAPS – Buffalo State's Scholarship Portal:

- CAPS is Buffalo State's centralized scholarship system and holds hundreds of scholarships!
- Check for new opportunities regularly; most are posted in Nov. and Jan.
- URL: buffalostate.academicworks.com

Invest an hour in drafting an essay about yourself, your interests, and your community service participation. Once you have developed a comprehensive essay, it will be easy for you to tailor it to multiple scholarship essay requirements.

The best things you can do: Strive for good grades (in high school and college); serve your school and your community.

File the FAFSA! Many scholarships require a FAFSA to be submitted. File it *every year* on or after October 1st each year.

Follow Through! If you have been selected as a recipient, be sure to follow through on all that is required of you. Often, students need to submit to the donor a thank you note, proof of enrollment, or a tuition bill.

Best wishes on your scholarship search!