



## CONDUCTING A SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Department of Financial Aid

### WHERE TO LOOK

High School Counselor  
OU Department of Financial Aid  
Public Library  
Churches  
Organizations  
Employers  
Internet  
Community Foundations

### PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST SCAMS

Potential scams may include the following:

- “The Scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”
- “You can’t get this information anywhere else.”
- “I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship.”
- “We’ll do all the work.”
- “The scholarship will cost some money.”
- “You’ve been selected by a ‘national foundation’ to receive a scholarship” or “You’re a finalist” in a contest you never entered.

### HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL

- 1) Start your search early
- 2) Read eligibility requirements carefully
- 3) Organize all your scholarship materials:  
  
Transcript  
Standardized test scores  
Financial information, including tax returns  
Letters of Recommendation  
Proof of eligibility (organization membership, etc.)  
Samples of writing or essays
- 4) Proofread your application carefully
- 5) Do not leave items blank
- 6) Follow instructions exactly
- 7) Make sure your application is legible
- 8) Make copies of everything you send
- 9) Double check your application
- 10) Get your application turned in early  
*(Do not wait until the day before the deadline!)*

***REMEMBER—never invest more than postage in conducting a scholarship search!***

For more information on scholarship scams, please check the following sites:

[www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams)  
[www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml)

### SOME BASICS ON INTERNET SEARCHES

- 1) Make a list of organizations, churches, and foundations to use as subcategories for your search. Being specific will decrease the time spent on your search and will yield better results.
- 2) Use a variety of search engines because each will yield different results i.e. Google, Yahoo, and Duck Duck Go.
- 3) After reaching a desired website, check the sides or top of the home page for links to scholarships, grants, financial aid, funding, financial assistance, education, etc.
- 4) Keep a list of websites visited to reduce duplication in your search.

For general information about financial aid and scholarships access: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

## **SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES**

### **General**

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

<https://feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/>

<https://www.collegeboard.org/>

<https://www.nationalmerit.org/>

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

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

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

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

<https://finaid.org/>

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

<https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>

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

<https://legion-aux.org/scholarships>

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

<https://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs/>

<https://kansasmasonic.foundation/>

<https://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot/scholarships>

### **International/Study Abroad**

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

The OU Department of Financial Aid provides the above links as a courtesy to assist with your scholarship search. Website addresses and content changes frequently. All websites listed above were valid as of May 2025. Ottawa University does not promote, endorse, or manage any of the websites listed. Furnishing these websites does not imply Ottawa University or any department / office of the University agrees with the content of the website or information linked to the website.