

Scholarship Information, Websites, and Scams

College Scholarships

- Most scholarship money is generated by the college/university you choose to attend through merit-based (good grades/high test scores) and need-based scholarships! This is where the majority of scholarships come from.
 - Please pay close attention to application deadlines and procedures. Some application deadlines are as early as November 1. Strive for the best grades possible and strong test scores. (We encourage all students/parents to complete the FAFSA as most merit-based and all need-based scholarships will require this to be completed.)
 - Colleges also have additional scholarships that students will need to apply for. Please be sure to research each colleges' scholarship opportunities.
- Please reach out to unions, church groups, cultural groups, fraternities/sororities. If you are a member of any group, you may find that scholarships are offered for the members' children.

Community Scholarships

- Our community is amazing at paying it forward to Madison-Plains students. At the end of January, We will have a senior meeting. We will talk about graduation, required forms we need from you and a representative from the Scholarship Foundation will come in and talk to you about their big scholarship. Around the end of February, all of our local scholarships will start rolling in. This is a VERY IMPORTANT time to make sure you are checking your MP email because all scholarship applications will be sent to you through email. We will also have paper copies located outside the guidance office on the wall under SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

Additional Sites for Scholarships

- [Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund](#) – The nation's largest non-profit organization devoted to providing college scholarships for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).
- [American Indian College Fund](#) – Provides Native American students with scholarships and financial support for the nation's 33 accredited tribal colleges and universities.
- [American Indian Graduate Center & AIGCS](#) - The largest scholarship providers to Native students in the United States, awarding \$15 million in scholarships annually and more than \$200 million since inception. For almost 50 years, AIGC has funded students pursuing undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees in any field of study at any accredited institution of choice, working with over 500 tribes in all 50 states.
- [Bold.org](#) - has one of the cleanest interfaces. It's easy to search and find different scholarships you may be eligible for and you can filter by your education level, award category, award amount and deadline.
- [Cappex](#) – A free website where you can learn which colleges want you, before you apply and learn about more than \$11 billion in merit aid scholarships.
- [CareerOneStop](#) - The U.S. Department of Labor has its own scholarship website through the CareerOneStop portal. There are more than 8,000 scholarships listed, and you can filter awards by keyword or sort them by amount, deadline, residing state and state where you'll be studying.
- [Chegg](#) – A place to connect with scholarships and learn about colleges.
- [The Columbus Foundation](#) - for high school and college students to search and apply for scholarships
- [The College Board Opportunity Scholarships](#) - The program guides juniors and seniors through the college planning process and offers the chance to earn scholarships, from \$500 to \$40,000, for every action that students complete.
- [Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation](#) – Educational and scholarship opportunities for students of all levels.
- [Dell Scholars Program](#) – Recognizes academic potential and determination in students that have a definite need for financial assistance.
- [Fastweb.com](#)- Create a profile and let fastweb do the research on scholarships, internships colleges and more for you.
- [Gates Millennium Scholars](#) – Provides outstanding low income African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline they choose.
- [Going Merry](#)- A free, one-stop scholarships platform. It matches you with scholarships and then helps you apply directly. It has both local and national scholarships and you can bulk-apply for multiple scholarships, which share similar essay prompts, using one application.

- [HS Finder \(Hispanic Scholarship Fund\)](#) – Scholarship information for Latino students.
- [JLV College Counseling](#) - provides a myriad of scholarship lists based on diverse identities—including scholarships by age, athletics, disability, gender, hobbies/interests/talents, major, military status, and more.
- [NICHE](#) – Search lists of scholarships by choosing a category or get matched to college scholarships you are eligible for.
- [KnowHow2GO](#) – Complete information on college prep, whether in middle school or seniors.
- [“No Essay” College Scholarship](#)
- [The NSHSS Foundation](#) - The NSHSS Foundation fosters the growth of students pursuing the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math), business, economics, public policy, and environmental science and sustainability fields. Through special programs, including the NSHSS Honor Society, the NSHSS Foundation connects young scholars with additional opportunities to advance their education, personal growth and career interests.
- [Peerlift](#) - Proven scholarships, internships, summer programs, and more gathered by fellow students like you. (Founded by a team of 2017 Coca-Cola Scholars!).
- [Peterson's](#) – scholarship search tool to filter available scholarships by school type, ethnicity, gender, field of study, state of residence, award type, and more!
- [RaiseMe](#) – allows students to receive “micro-scholarships” for top colleges that are partners. These micro-scholarships are awarded to students who receive an “A”, join a new club, or accomplish something special in high school. The idea is that these micro-scholarships add up and can prove to be quite valuable. Every opportunity is exclusive to their website, so you won’t find any external opportunities.
- [Reagan Foundation Scholarships](#) - Scholarship opportunities for outstanding student leaders.
- [SallieMae: College Answer](#) – Looking for easy-to-read scholarship resources to help you.
- [Scholar Snapp](#) - A free, simple to use data standard that allows students to reuse their application information - including contact information, essays, transcripts, etc. - from one scholarship application to another thereby streamlining the college scholarship application process.
- [Scholly](#) – A mobile app that provides students with a fast and simple way to find scholarships for college. (Created by Christopher Gray, a Coca-Cola Scholar!)
- [Unigo](#) - is a scholarship engine that doubles as a college search tool. It offers both curated scholarship matches (if you create an account) and a scholarship directory (if you decide not to).
- [Scholarship Owl](#) – similar to Going Merry
- [Scholarships360](#) - helps students pay for college and graduate school through personalized scholarships and expert advice. We offer a wide range of resources to help you through every step of the way – that includes scholarship lists by state, major, demographics, and more. We also offer a free scholarship search tool, which allows you to enter your demographics, academic interests, and other information, to receive custom-matched and automatically updated scholarship opportunities.
- [Scholarships.com](#)– A free college scholarship search and financial aid information.
- [Scholarship America](#) – is a non-profit that administers scholarships for companies, foundations, and non-profit organizations. Each opportunity is up-to-date, legit, and vetted.
- [StudentScholarships.org](#) – Provides scholarships that change on a regular basis
- [Thurgood Marshall College Fund](#) – Provides scholarships, programmatic and capacity building support to the 47 public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- [UNCF](#)– Awards 10,000 students each year through 400 scholarship and internship programs so that students from low- and moderate-income families can afford college tuition, books and room and board

BEWARE OF SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS - Every year, several hundred thousand students and parents are defrauded by scholarship scams. The victims of these scams lose thousands, if not millions, of dollars collectively on an annual basis according to multiple sources. Scam operations often imitate legitimate government agencies, grant-giving foundations, education lenders and scholarship matching services, using official-sounding names containing words like “National,” “Federal,” “Foundation,” or “Administration.”

This section provides advice on how to identify such scholarship scams, how to distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent organizations, how to protect yourself from scholarship scams; and what to do if you are scammed. In general, be wary of scholarships with an application fee, scholarship matching services who guarantee success, advance-fee loan scams and sales pitches disguised as financial aid “seminars”.

[Scholarship Scams](#)

[Common Scholarship Scams](#)

[Warning Signs of a Scholarship Scam](#)

[How to Avoid and Protect Yourself from Scholarship Scams](#)