uaspire

Scholarship Basics and Tips

Financial Aid Virtual Event

Introductions

Name
Job Title

About me & fun fact
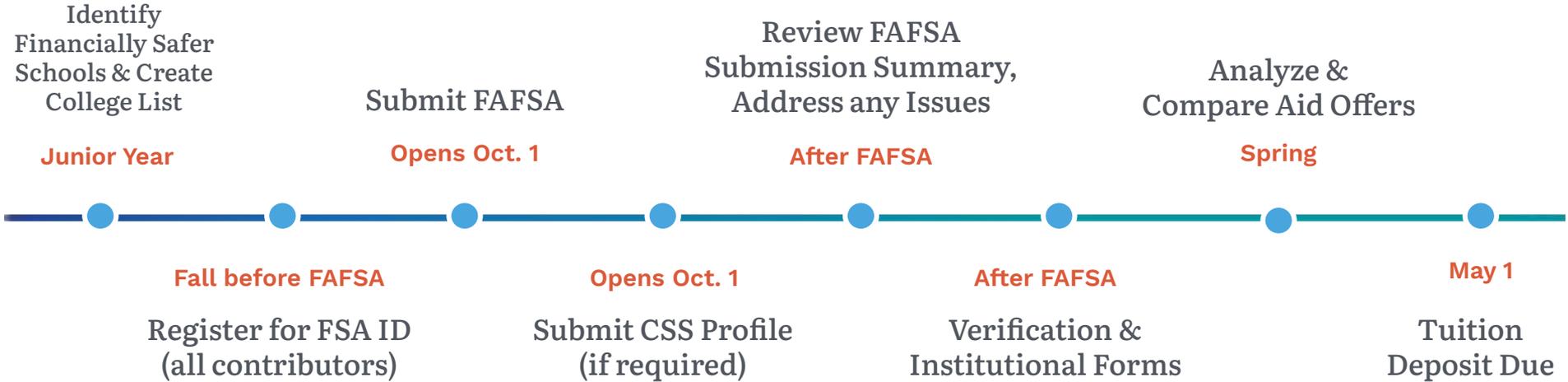
Name
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Agenda

- **Introduction to Scholarships**
- **Application Requirements**
- **Finding Scholarships**
- **How to get follow-up support after today's presentation**
- **Survey/Q&A**

Financial Aid Timeline: New Students

Identify Financially Safer Schools & Create College List

Junior Year

Submit FAFSA

Opens Oct. 1

Review FAFSA Submission Summary, Address any Issues

After FAFSA

Analyze & Compare Aid Offers

Spring

Fall before FAFSA

Register for FSA ID (all contributors)

Opens Oct. 1

Submit CSS Profile (if required)

After FAFSA

Verification & Institutional Forms

May 1

Tuition Deposit Due

Communicate as needed with the financial aid departments of your colleges

Find and apply for scholarships throughout the year

Scholarships:
An Introduction

Scholarships

Scholarships do not need to be repaid ("free money" or "gift aid") and can come from the college, state or federal government, or outside organizations

- Given for variety of reasons:
  - Mainly fall into two categories: merit & need
- Can be one-time only, or renew yearly
- Scholarships are a great way to help pay for remaining college costs!
  - Awards vary anywhere from $500 to a full ride!
- There can be requirements for scholarships
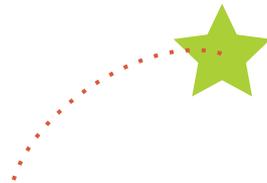 - Limited to a certain amount of time
  - Maintaining a certain major or GPA

Check out uAspire's scholarship guide

Why You May Need Scholarships

Scholarships are the best type of aid because it does not need to be repaid. There are many reasons you may need scholarships, including:

- To cover part or all of your remaining bill

- To pay for indirect expenses, like books, technology, transportation

- To try to minimize loan debt

- To pay for college without getting a part time job

Institutional Scholarships

- **Institutional Scholarships** are given by colleges in two ways:
  - Using information provided through the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile
  - Through additional applications submitted by the student for specific scholarships at the institution
- They are found on aid offers, via email, or student portal

Outside Scholarships

- **Outside scholarships** are those which come from a source outside of the college or government

  - National corporations, local businesses, community organizations, private foundations, etc.

- Typically require an application and are due throughout the year

  - Due dates vary, but most are due before May

- Make sure to report any outside scholarships you receive to your college!

Merit vs Need

Most scholarships are awarded on the basis of **merit** or **need**. Scholarships can take into account both merit and need, or choose one or the other to focus on

Merit

Some characteristic that the scholarship provider looks for in potential recipients. Merit can include anything - grades, artistic or athletic talents, special interests, leadership, etc.

Need

Financial support needed - calculated by financial aid forms such as the FAFSA or CSS Profile or special circumstances reported elsewhere

Components of scholarship awards

Scholarships always have a monetary component to help pay for college costs, but can also include:

Emergency Aid

- Direct to student financial assistance via gift card, Venmo, cash, etc.

Physical Items

- Supplies - computers, books or book credits, school supplies, etc.

Support Services

- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Therapy
- Access to networks

Renewable vs Non-Renewable

Renewable Scholarships

- Available a certain number of years

- May need to reapply for some, while others are guaranteed for a certain number of years

- May have requirements (GPA, majors)

Non-Renewable Scholarships

- Can only receive once, leaving a higher bill the next year(s)

Be sure to ask the provider about renewability and understand the requirements. Check with your financial aid office to understand how your bill might change if you have a non-renewable scholarship

Maximizing Scholarship Amounts

- **Displacement:** (AKA financial aid over-award) a reduction of certain kinds of aid due to outside scholarships, typically when they exceed your demonstrated financial need (cost of attendance minus student aid index)

  - This means that your financial aid offer may change

- Examples of displacement policies

  - Boston University's policy: self-help aid (need-based loans, work study) are reduced first. Grants are affected only if over-award exceeds self-help aid

  - Macalester College's policy: outside scholarship totals exceeding $10,000 replace grant aid first, followed by need-based loans/work study

Displacement Cont.

- If you are receiving any outside scholarships, take these steps to try to avoid displacement
  - [Determine](#) your college's displacement policy
  - Discuss displacement with your scholarship provider
  - Reach out to your financial aid office

While displacement can feel overwhelming, it's important to remember that applying for scholarships is almost always worth it. Make sure to keep applying and reporting scholarships that you receive to your college!

Scholarship Application Requirements

Typical Requirements

- Application

- Essay(s) or Video Statement

- Letters of Recommendation

- School:
  - FAFSA Submission Summary, aid offer from college
  - Official Transcript
  - List of honors, awards, achievements
  - GPA, SAT, ACT, etc.
  - Sports, Clubs, Activities

- Community Involvement:
  - Volunteering, jobs, resume

uAspire's Scholarship Toolkit

Use it to stay organized!

Application

- Application may be a paper form or online, if one is required
- Typically requires basic student information (name, email, grad year, etc.)
- Lists all additional requirements

Best Practices:

- Start early!
- Keep applications in a safe place (folder on computer or file irl)
- Gather all listed requirements

Letters of Recommendation

- Letters written by those with professional relationship to the applicant

- Typically a teacher, guidance counselor, employer, or coach

- Common for a scholarship to ask for one or two

Best Practices:

- Ask early!

- Ask more people than you need

- Provide them with an "About Me" sheet or a list of things you would like included

Essays

- **Allows the scholarship provider to get to know you & prove why you should be awarded the scholarship**
- **Typically given a prompt. Common topics include:**
  - **Goals and achievements**
  - **Hardships**
  - **Personal statements**

Best Practices:

- Start early! (so you can take your time)
- Follow the prompt and repurpose essays when you can
- Ask others for their opinions and reviews
- Utilize online resources for help

Video Statements

- Can capture similar information to essays and personal statements
- Can allow for a more personal or creative submission when done well

Best Practices:

- Start early!
- Be creative and unique, but make a plan too
- Make a quality video - consider lighting, audio, editing applications
- Review before submitting

Resume

- **If a resume is required for a scholarship application, use these resources to build a compelling resume:**
  - [The Student Resume](#)
  - [College Student Resume](#)
  - [High School Resume](#)

Best Practices:

- Start early!
- Optimize resume for its intended purpose
- Utilize career resources at school

Best Practices

Unsure about your scholarship application? The scholarship provider is your best point of contact for more information or clarification.

1. **Start early**

   - Get materials as early as possible
   - Do not wait until the last minute!

2. **Utilize resources**

   - Online
   - In person (career services, school counselors, uAspire advisors, etc.)

3. **Review before submitting**

   - Make sure names and titles are correct for the scholarship you're applying for
   - Ensure you have all requirements before submission

Questions?

Finding Scholarships

When to Search

- Start towards the end of junior year of high school and continue searching year round
  - Search throughout your whole time in college too!
- Due dates will vary but most scholarships are due before May

Where to Search

Local

- School counselor
- Local businesses, community organizations, etc

Institutional

- Financial aid office
- Aid offers
- Student portals
- Emails or other communication

Online

- Scholarship search engines

Scholarship Search Engines

Here's a list of websites where you can find various scholarships

Big Future

Fastweb

Appily

EnACT Your Future

Going Merry

JLV College Counseling

Niche

Petersons

UNIGO

UNCF

Best Practices

1 **Look for scholarships that:**

- You are eligible for.
- You are likely to get.
  - Especially local scholarships

2 **Search:**

- Starting now! Start early!
- Year-round.
- Both locally and online.

3 **Apply:**

- For as many as you're eligible for.
- Year-round.

Typical Scholarship Example

HBCU Sustainable Communities Initiative Scholarship Program

- $10,000 over two years
- Requirements:
  - 2.8 GPA
  - STEM/business/sustainability major
  - Attend an eligible HBCU
  - African American/Black college juniors
- Application:
  - Online application
  - Resume
  - Essay

No Essay Scholarship Example

College Board Opportunity Scholarships

- Completing each of the 6 college planning steps automatically enters you into $500 scholarships (1 entry per student per step completed)

- For each completed step, entry into $40,000 scholarship (6 per student)

- 2 $40k awards per month

- Find more information on BigFuture's website

Start Your Career List
Deadline: End of February During Your Senior Year
Start Your List

Build Your College List
Deadline: End of June During Your Junior Year
Build Your List

Start Your Scholarship List
Deadline: End of February During Your Senior Year
Start Your List

Strengthen Your College List
Deadline: End of October During Your Senior Year
Strengthen Your College List

Complete the FAFSA
Deadline: End of February During Your Senior Year
Complete the FAFSA

Apply to Colleges
Deadline: End of February During Your Senior Year
Apply to Colleges

Scholarship Search Example

Search by scholarship name

Saved Scholarships (0)

Find the right scholarships for you

Filters

Narrow your search with the filters below.

30,904 Results

Save Search   Share   Deadline (Nearest First) ▼

Location ＋

Academic Stage ＋

GPA ＋

Scholarship Type ＋

Degree Level ＋

Fields of Study ＋

Deadline Soon

Win up to **$3,000**

Maryan E. Reynolds Scholarship

Opens:	Closes:
06/10/2025	07/10/2025

Merit-Based	Need-Based	Essay Required
No	Yes	No

Deadline Soon

Win up to **$1,000**

Hahn-Ahlers Continuing Education Scholarship

Opens:	Closes:
06/10/2025	07/10/2025

Merit-Based	Need-Based	Essay Required
No	Yes	No

Deadline Soon

Win up to **$2,000**

COAP Scholarship

Opens:	Closes:
05/09/2025	07/10/2025

Merit-Based	Need-Based	Essay Required
No	No	Yes

Deadline Soon

Award Amount Varies

Deadline Soon

Win up to $1,000

Deadline Soon

Award Amount Varies

Scholarship Search Example

Filters
Narrow your search with the filters below.

Location
Select the location of your current residence and/or your home to see scholarships that are based on current location.

- ⦿ United States

| | County | City |

- ◯ Canada
- ◯ Mexico

Academic Stage
Select your current academic stage to find scholarships open to you.

- ⦿ High School
  - ☐ Select All
  - ☐ 9th Grade
  - ☐ 10th Grade
  - ☐ 11th Grade
  - ☑ 12th Grade

GPA +

Scholarship Type +

Degree Level
Select the degree level you're currently pursuing. Select "Undergraduate" to see programs for both Associate and Bachelor's degrees.

- ◯ Professional Certification
- ⦿ Undergraduate
  - ☐ Select All
  - ☐ Bachelor's Degree
  - ☐ Associate Degree
  - ☐ High School
  - ☐ GED
- ◯ Postgraduate

Fields of Study
Search scholarships by your intended, current, or past fields of study. This list is similar to college majors but also includes subjects that are not traditional academic fields.

🔍 Biology ✕

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317 Results

♡ Save Search ⌯ Share Deadline (Nearest First) ⌄

Location: United States ✕   Academic Stage: High School Senior ✕   Fields of Study: Biology ✕   **Clear All Filters**

Accepting Applications ♡

Win up to **$1,000**

TEC New Member Scholarship

Opens: 04/01/2025   Closes: 08/01/2025

Merit-Based No   Need-Based No   Essay Required No

Accepting Applications ♡

Win up to **$1,500**

Michael Moody Fitness Scholarship

Opens: 08/01/2024   Closes: 08/01/2025

Merit-Based No   Need-Based No   Essay Required No

Accepting Applications ♡

Win up to **$1,500**

Shape Plus Fitness Scholarship

Opens: 08/01/2024   Closes: 08/01/2025

Merit-Based No   Need-Based No   Essay Required No

Scholarship Search Example

Search by scholarship name

Select your current academic stage to find scholarships open to you.

- ● High School
- ☐ Select All
- ☐ 9th Grade
- ☐ 10th Grade
- ☐ 11th Grade
- ☑ 12th Grade
- ○ College
- ○ Postgraduate
- ○ Other

GPA +

Scholarship Type +

Degree Level +

Fields of Study −

Search scholarships by your intended, current, or past fields of study. This list is similar to college majors but also includes subjects that are not traditional

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Accepting Applications

Win up to **$1,000**

A. Phillip Randolph Memorial Scholarship

Opens:	Closes:
05/26/2025	08/11/2025

🏆 Merit-Based	⚗ Need-Based	✎ Essay Required
No	No	Yes

Accepting Applications

Win up to **$1,000**

NEACHMM Family Scholarship

Opens:	Closes:
06/25/2025	08/25/2025

🏆 Merit-Based	⚗ Need-Based	✎ Essay Required
No	No	No

Accepting Applications

Win up to **$1,000**

NEACHMM Student Scholarship

Opens:	Closes:
06/25/2025	08/25/2025

🏆 Merit-Based	⚗ Need-Based	✎ Essay Required
No	No	Yes

Accepting Applications

Win up to **$1,000**

The Phyllis B. Price Memorial Scholarship

Opens:	Closes:
06/01/2025	08/31/2025

🏆 Merit-Based	⚗ Need-Based	✎ Essay Required
Yes	No	No

Accepting Applications

Award Amount Varies

Empowering Women through STEM Grant

Opens:	Closes:
01/01/2025	09/30/2025

🏆 Merit-Based	⚗ Need-Based	✎ Essay Required
No	No	Yes

Not Open Yet

Win up to **$1,000**

OHM Advisors Diversity Scholarship

Opens:
August 2026

🏆 Merit-Based	⚗ Need-Based	✎ Essay Required
No	No	No

The Phyllis B. Price Memorial Schol

Saved Scholarships (0)

Scholarship Directory

The Phyllis B. Price Memorial Scholarship

Kingdom Authority Ministries Outreach

Accepting Applications

♡ Add to List

About the Scholarship

Opens: 6/1/2025 **Closes:** 8/31/2025

The Phyllis B. Price Memorial Scholarship is available to underrepresented minority students who are pursuing studies in a STEAM field. High school seniors and current college sophomores or juniors are welcome to apply. Recipients are chosen for their academic record and involvement in community service and extracurricular activities.

Win up to

$1,000

Essay Required: No

Need-Based: No

Merit-Based: Yes

Website

Apply Now

Requirements

- Minimum 3.00 GPA
- Resident of the U.S.
- High school senior, college sophomore, or junior
- Seeking a professional certification, associate, or bachelor's degree in a STEAM field
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Historically underserved population
- Participation in community service or extracurricular activities

The Phyllis B. Price Memorial

The Phyllis B. Price Memorial Scholarship Fund 2025-2026 Application

#pbpscholarship

Apply for The Phyllis B. Price Memorial Scholarship; we will award three Awards for the designated academic year: two $500 and one $1,000.

The Application and supplemental requirements must be submitted by **August 31st** of next year before the 11:59 p.m. EST deadline. Refer to the FAQs for eligibility and more information.

Don't have time to finish now? Start your application today. Scroll to the bottom to *Save & Resume*. You will receive a link by email to return to your application and complete it by the deadline.

Kingdom Authority Ministries Outreach (KĀMO)
1385 Fordham Dr, Ste 105
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
1-888-806-4252 | scholarshipfund@kamo.org

A KAMO Initiative

Personal Information

Name *
First | Middle | Last | Suffix

Address *
City | State | Zip Code

Date of Birth * | **Day Phone** | **Active Email** * | **Race/Ethnicity** *
| (555) 555-5555 | |

Applicant Education Information

Complete all the required fields and upload documents as indicated.

Name of High School Attend or Graduated. * | **STEM or Arts Academy** * | **State** * | **Zip Code** *
| Yes ○ No ● | State | Zip Code

GPA (on a 4.00 scale) * | **SAT/ACT Score** | **Class Rank** | **HS Graduate** * | **Grade Level This Fall** *
3.00 or higher | | | ~Select~ | ~Select~

Name of College/University or Technical School * | **State** * | **Accepted** *
| State | ~Selec~

STEM+Arts Major * | **Major Status** *
| Select

Application Data

Applicant must request two Letters of Recommendation.

Transcript (unofficial acceptable) *
Upload or drag files here.
Latest Transcript. PDF, DOCX, DOC file up to 5 MB.

Applicant Two-Minute Video *
Upload or drag files here.
Introduce yourself in a video. Tell us who you are, how you plan to use your STEM or Arts degree in this digital age, and how you learned about The Phyllis B. Price Memorial Scholarship (2 minutes maximum).

Letters of Recommendation Requested *
Yes ○ No ●
Two LORs are required.

Did you complete the FAFSA
○ Yes ● No

Next Steps

- **Collect application materials**

- **Start finding and applying for scholarships**

- **Report any scholarships you receive to your college**

  - Worried about displacement? Contact your college and scholarship provider

- **Complete other financial aid steps**

How to get follow-up support after today's presentation

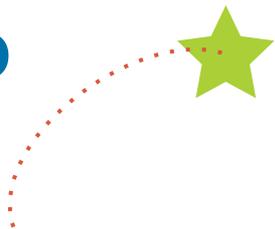# Additional Financial Aid Virtual Events

uAspire has ongoing financial aid events throughout the year on topics such as:

- Affording College 101
- FAFSA
- CSS Profile
- Next Steps Post-FAFSA
- Financial Aid Offer Review
- Summer Financial Aid Steps

Scan the QR code for upcoming events and registration links, or email studentsupport@uaspire.org for more information

Reach out to uAspire

For **students and families** looking for further financial aid support, send us a message at studentsupport@uaspire.org!

We can offer:

- Answers to questions
- Resources
- Personalized advice

For **counselors and practitioners**, check out our in-depth training resources here: uaspire.org/solutions/training

Please complete this brief survey

Questions?

Thank you!

u⋆aspire