Scholarship Toolkit

Outside scholarships are an excellent supplemental source of financial aid to help cover remaining costs after financial aid from your school. Learn more below!

Key facts

Outside scholarships....

- Are private sources of financial aid.
- Usually require an application - separate from FAFSA - and sometimes require an essay
- Are offered by national corporations/institutions, local businesses, community-based organizations, and private foundations.
- Have varying deadlines. Check early and often during your search process!
- Can usually be applied to any school, but some have restrictions.

Scholarship search tips

Assemble the pieces needed for applications

- **Two or more letters of recommendation** from non-family adults who know you well, such as teachers, counselors, coaches, and supervisors.
- Official high school **transcript** (or college transcript if you are a current college student).

Search local scholarships first

- Find scholarships from your city, state, or region.
- Your school, neighborhood, community organization, employer, or place of worship may have scholarships they sponsor.

Find scholarships that fit you

- Check requirements for GPA, neighborhood of residence, ethnicity, family income, and leadership or volunteer experience.

© uAspire 2026

"About Me"

Use this worksheet to help you identify scholarships you may be eligible for based on certain characteristics. You can also provide this sheet to anyone writing you a recommendation, in case they need more information about your personal details.

GPA, SAT, ACT, etc.	
Ethnicity / cultural background	
Neighborhood	
Academic interests	
Hobbies	
Honors, awards, recognition, or achievements	
School clubs, activities, and sports	
Volunteer work and community service	
Work history (formal and informal)	
References (name, relationship, contact info)	

© uAspire 2026

Local Scholarship Resources

Region	Organization/Name	Website (hyperlinked)
Boston	uAspire's list for MA high school students	http://uaspire.org/ma-scholarship-list
	uAspire's list for MA college students	http://uaspire.org/ma-college-scholarship-list
	University Club of Boston	https://www.uclub.org/scholarship-program
	Edwards Scholarship Fund	https://edwardsfund.org/
	City of Boston Scholarship	https://www.boston.gov/education/city-boston-scholarship-fund
Bay Area	uAspire's list for CA high school students	http://uaspire.org/bay-HS-scholarship-list
	uAspire's list for CA college students	http://uaspire.org/bay-college-scholarship-list
	Education First	https://educationfirst.org/our-scholarships/
	Oakland Promise Scholarship	https://scholarships.oaklandpromise.org/
	Good Tidings Community Service Scholarship	https://goodtidings.org/impact/education-and-scholarships/
New York	uAspire's list for NY college students	http://uaspire.org/ny-scholarship-list
	The New York Times College Scholarship Program	https://www.nytco.com/company/the-new-york-times-college-scholarship-program/
	Royal Business Bank Scholarship Program	https://www.apcf.org/royal-business-bank-scholarship-open
	Greenhouse Scholars	https://greenhousescholars.org/our-scholars/become-a-scholar/

© uAspire 2026

Additional Scholarship Resources

Identity-based scholarships

Identity/Group	Organization/Name	Website (hyperlinked)
Asian American / Pacific Islander	APIA Scholarship Program	https://apiascholars.org/
	USPAACC	https://uspaacc.com/programs/education
Arab American / Middle Eastern	The Arab American Institute	https://www.aaiusa.org/scholarships-apply?rq=scholarship
Black / African American	United Negro College Fund	https://uncf.org/
	NAACP	https://naacp.org/find-resources/scholarships-awards-internships/scholarships
Hispanic / Latinx	Hispanic Scholarship Fund	https://www.hsf.net/
	LULAC	https://lulac.org/programs/education/scholarships/
LGBTQ+	Point Foundation Scholarships	https://pointfoundation.org/scholarships
	League Foundation Scholarships	https://www.leaguefoundation.org/
Native American / American Indian	American Indian College Fund	https://collegefund.org/students/
	American Indian Education Fund	https://nativepartnership.org/aief/
Undocumented Students	Golden Door Scholars	https://www.goldendoorscholars.org/
	The Dream.US National Scholarship	https://www.thedream.us/scholarships

Scholarship search engines

- **CollegeBoard:** https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search
- **Fastweb:** https://fastweb.com
- **Appily:** https://www.appily.com/scholarships

© uAspire 2026