

Scholarship Savvy

Wouldn't it be great if someone saw your potential, knew you were going to do something big and decided to help you pay for college, without asking for the money back? It is great, and it's called a scholarship.

Scholarships can come from many places: organizations in your community, corporations in your city or state, the college you plan to attend, even your high school. They can also be awarded based on a variety of qualifications. Academic and athletic ability are two of the most well-known, but many scholarships are also awarded based on field of study, heritage, religious affiliation or just because you could use the money. Find links to scholarships and free searches at www.ICANsucceed.org.

What It Takes to Apply

Unfortunately, most scholarship committees will not hand over the money without some effort on your part. Generally you'll be asked for:

- ▶ A completed scholarship application form.
- ▶ Copies of documents like your high school transcript, financial aid forms and tax returns.
- ▶ Letters of recommendation from adults you know.
- ▶ A resume of jobs, activities and organizations you've participated in.
- ▶ An essay addressing a topic related to the scholarship funder's mission or goals.

What It Takes to Win

As a source of free money, scholarships are popular with students, so there is often stiff competition for them. You can stand out among the applicants by:

- ▶ Filling out every line on the application form neatly and legibly.
- ▶ Including every document that is asked for, in the order it's asked for.
- ▶ Omitting extra documents, special packaging or anything not specifically requested.
- ▶ Writing an essay that sets you apart.

Get Organized

Use the organizer on the reverse as a guide to create a timeline for each scholarship you're applying for. Choose the tasks you need to do for that scholarship, and fill in the dates according to the application deadline. Staple it to a folder for each scholarship; then keep your documents in the folder as you receive or complete them. Put your folders in chronological order to stay on top of deadlines.



Scholarship Application Organizer

Name of scholarship: _____

Application deadline: _____

Date	When to Begin Tasks	Tasks
	6 weeks before deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Research essay topic
	5 weeks before deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Outline essay <input type="checkbox"/> Draft essay
	4 weeks before deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Review essay <input type="checkbox"/> Ask two adults to review essay <input type="checkbox"/> Get copies of needed documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Transcript <input type="checkbox"/> Financial aid forms <input type="checkbox"/> Tax returns Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____
	3 weeks before deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Correct essay <input type="checkbox"/> Proofread essay
	2 weeks before deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow up on letters of recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize essay
	10 days before deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Complile application and other materials <input type="checkbox"/> Complete application
	1 week before deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail application package
	1 week after deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with selection committee to ensure your package arrived <input type="checkbox"/> Send a thank-you note to the selection committee to thank them for considering your application.