



Scholarship Application Tips

Introduction

Ever wonder what those who award the scholarships want to see on your application? Use the tips provided below when completing your scholarship applications.

Tips

Identify All Scholarships You Are Eligible For

- Get to know your high school guidance counselors! Their recommendations can make a difference and they will have information on scholarships recent graduates have received as well as local scholarship opportunities.
- Sign up for scholarship information at sites that offer free services. Steer clear of sites that ask for personal information (date of birth, social security number, etc.) and sites that charge for their services.
- Complete every scholarship application that might apply to your situation. Military history, community involvement experience, and work experience can all be criteria for a scholarship.

Details Matter: Complete the Application in Full and Follow Directions

- Provide ONLY what is required. Items not requested won't impress readers and could work against you and even disqualify you.

Neatness Counts: Your Scholarship Application Represents You

- It's always best to type the applications. If you must print, do so neatly and legibly.
- PROOFREAD the entire application carefully. Nothing is less impressive than an application with misspelled words or grammatical errors. Ask a friend, teacher, or parent to proofread it too.

Meet All Deadlines

- Set mini-deadlines! It's difficult to get an application done in one sitting, so try to break it into smaller parts and assign them their own deadlines (i.e., If an application is due by March 31st, collect your letter of recommendation and transcript by the second week of March, complete your essay by the third week, and finish proofreading in the last week).
- DEADLINES ARE FINAL – don't expect extensions. To save yourself stress, give your teachers/counselors enough time to write their letters of recommendation (even better, give them deadlines too)!

Get Your Application in Safely

- Before sending the application, make a digital copy of the entire packet and keep it on file (either in the cloud or on a flash drive). If your application is lost, you will be able to replace it quickly. If you can't make an electronic copy, keep a hard copy.



CORE PRACTICES

PATHWAYS

- Make sure your name (and social security number, if applicable) appears on all pages of the application. Pieces of your application may get lost unless they are clearly identified.

Ask For Help

- If you have problems with the application, ask your counselor or teacher. In many cases you can call the funding organization. You can also ask for help from your mentor.

Tell Your Story

- Put your best foot forward by presenting your strengths, writing essays from your experiences, and presenting an optimistic voice. Stay positive and remember: it's always better to have tried with your whole effort rather than to have tried half heartedly or not at all.