



University of Phoenix®
CAREER WITH CONFIDENCE™

Scholarship guide

3 steps to earn scholarships for college

Let's face it. You shouldn't need a college degree to figure out how to apply for scholarships for a college degree! Earning a college scholarship may not be as hard as you think. First, it's important to know what's out there. Next, you'll want to develop a plan. And finally, selecting a school that helps you understand your scholarship options can help your plans come to life.

In this guide...

YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO FIND – AND GET – SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1 Know your options**
- 2 Work a smart plan**
- 3 Apply for college scholarships**



1 Know your options

SCHOLARSHIP OPTIONS ABOUND FOR ADULT LEARNERS

If you're returning to college after extended time off or attending for the first time as a working adult, you may think the good scholarships get snatched up by 18-year-old high school seniors.

Think again.

For “nontraditional students” — those who didn't start (or finish!) college immediately after high school and who often also have jobs and family responsibilities — many scholarship options are available. You just have to know where to look.

How to find scholarships



Start local. Many local businesses specifically want to help local students go to college, so ask around. The dentist or auto shop you've patronized for 10 years may have a scholarship program.



Sleuth a little. Visit your local chamber of commerce, rotary club or faith-based organization to see if it offers college scholarships.



Ask your employer. Your employer may offer scholarships, tuition assistance or reimbursement programs. (If you're job hunting, ask prospective employers about these benefits.)






Search scholarship databases. Expand your search to the state or national level by using online tools such as Fastweb.com, Scholarships.com and ScholarshipOwl. A filtered search can help match scholarships with your experience and interests.

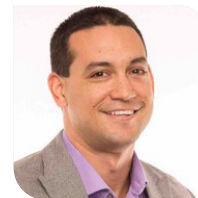


PRO TIP

Don't assume there are no scholarships that apply to you. Assume there are! If you've been out of the workforce raising kids, guess what? There are scholarships for stay-at-home moms and [single moms](#). Perhaps you don't think your work experience gives you an edge. University of Phoenix offers [The Phoenix Scholarship](#) to qualified applicants with at least three years of work experience.

-  **Try a keyword search.** Research your options using applicable academic, career or religious/cultural/ethnic/gender keywords. For example, a woman who is serving or has served in the U.S. Army might search “military scholarships for women” or “scholarships for women.” If you’re a nurse, search “nursing scholarships.”
-  **Check college websites.** Compare websites of schools you’re considering (or call enrollment representatives) for information about scholarship amounts, rules and application dates.
-  **Check industry associations.** Professional organizations such as the American Institute of Graphic Arts and the Foundation of the National Student Nurses’ Association offer scholarships. Check your relevant industry associations.

If you’re starting to feel overwhelmed, take a deep breath. “I can see why a prospective student might be saying, ‘Is it worth it? This is starting to feel like a second job,’” says Cameron Mohler, director of pricing and promotions for University of Phoenix. Remember why you decided to go back to school in the first place. And choose the strategies that make sense for you.



Cameron Mohler
Director of Pricing & Promotions UOPX

Sometimes, simply picking up the phone can help. “If I had my search narrowed down to a few schools, I wouldn’t be afraid to reach out to an enrollment representative. They’re trained to help you understand your options,” Mohler says.



FUN FACT

According to 2020 data from the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), education pays off. The median weekly earnings for those with a high school diploma is \$781. It jumps to \$1,305 for those with a bachelor’s degree.

2 Work a smart plan

FROM THE SIMPLE TO THE SCRAPPY, THESE STRATEGIES CAN GIVE YOU AN EDGE

Nontraditional students often juggle jobs, families and other responsibilities. When adding a scholarship search into the mix, it's important to work smarter, not harder. Put your best foot forward by checking the basic boxes, then sticking to a plan that will work for you.

- 1. Fill out the FAFSA®.** This is your starting point. [The Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\) form](#) “unlocks” many types of scholarship and aid opportunities. Some states and colleges require FAFSA information to determine eligibility for aid and merit scholarships.
- 2. Follow directions.** You haven't gotten this far by thinking about college casually. So don't be a casualty! Follow submission guidelines carefully. University of Phoenix Senior Finance Advisor Krystal Christopher says scholarship committees typically do not review submissions that fail to adhere to simple instructions.
- 3. Track your progress.** Christopher recommends setting up a spreadsheet to keep track of scholarships, deadlines, submission dates, application status and other notes important to you. This can keep you from doubling up on work (by accidentally applying to the same scholarship twice) or letting deadlines slip through the cracks.

Essays made easy

Don't let the essay portion of your scholarship application keep you up at night. Here's how to break it into bite-size pieces.



Write a standard bio.

Start by writing a short overview of your experience and strengths. “Have yourself summarized in a nice little bundle so it's easy to read,” Christopher says. Include how your experience relates to the opportunity and how passionate you are about the subject matter. Writing this ahead of time means you'll have it ready to use as a standard paragraph in every essay.



Tailor your essay.

Next, think of your essay like a cover letter. Use keywords from the organization’s website, application or selection criteria to match your essay to its values.



Be true to you.

It’s important to answer the actual question posed in a scholarship essay. But don’t be afraid to offer a little flair when appropriate. An essay should be quick, cohesive and to the point, and it should also showcase you and what you uniquely bring to the table.



FUN FACT

If you spend 100 hours researching, and land \$5,000 in scholarships, that would be the equivalent of a job that paid \$50 an hour!



3 Apply for college scholarships

AT UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX, SCHOLARSHIPS ARE STREAMLINED AND SIMPLIFIED

In some cases, you need look no further for college scholarships than, well, your college. For example, at University of Phoenix, scholarships aren't just for the chosen few. More streamlined scholarship opportunities are now accessible to working adults.

Designed to help meet the needs of working adults, these scholarship opportunities are tailored to students and alumni who have a track record of success and want to advance their education and career goals.

University of Phoenix Scholarships

Scholarship name	Amount	Degree level	Qualifications
The Phoenix Scholarship	\$1,000	Bachelor's / Master's	For new and returning students with least 3 years of work experience*
The Transfer Scholarship	\$3,000	Bachelor's	For new students with at least 13-60 combined transfer credits from accredited institution(s)*
The Alumni Scholarship	\$2,000	Bachelor's / Master's	For alumni students**
The Current Student Scholarship	\$2,000	Bachelor's / Master's	For current students who have taken a minimum of 24 credits with at least 18 credits remaining and have a GPA of 3.75 or higher.***

* Must be continuously enrolled and maintain a 3.0 GPA. ** Must be continuously enrolled and maintain a 3.0 GPA (bachelor's) / 3.25 GPA (master's). ***For current University of Phoenix master's degree students, the criteria are a minimum of 9 credits with at least 9 credits remaining and a GPA of 3.85 or higher.

In the end, Christopher says, the time and effort spent finding college scholarships can really pay off. “If you can get someone else to pay for school, why not? This can be a tremendous path to financial freedom,” she says.

Learn more about

[University of Phoenix’s \\$1 million scholarship commitment.](#)

Questions?

If you need help or have questions regarding the scholarship application or student enrollment process, please contact the University of Phoenix support team.

- Call 888-346-8679
- Visit our [scholarship page](#) to learn more about available scholarship opportunities