

# A GUIDE TO OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

Competition for outside resources has increased with the rising cost of education. You can enhance your ability to secure such funding if you plan ahead. It is important to:

- Assess your particular needs and preferences
- Consider any special circumstances or conditions that might make you eligible for aid targeted to certain types of students
- Thoroughly research available aid programs.

## **Application Tips For USD Students Who Are Seeking Funding From Outside Resources:**

### **1. Start Your Search Early**

Any search for funding is likely to be more successful if it is started early. If you allow enough time to complete all the necessary steps, you will be more likely to identify a wide variety of awards for which you may qualify and be able to meet the application deadlines. Some experts recommend that you start this process as early as two years before you think you will need financial assistance.

### **2. Assess Your Needs and Goals**

Your first step in seeking financial aid should be to establish your basic qualifications as a potential recipient. To do this, you must clearly define your educational and financial needs and goals (e.g., I want to graduate in four years; I want to keep my student loans to a minimum, my tuition and fees per year = xxxx; my room/board per year = xxxx).

### **3. Leave No Stone Unturned**

Once you have defined your goals, the next step is to identify any special factors that might make you eligible for aid programs that are offered only to certain types of students (e.g., gender, race or ethnic group, membership in an organization, parent's employer, career goal)

### **4. Allow Enough Time for the Application Process**

The amount of time needed to complete the application process for individual awards will vary, so you should pay close attention to application details and deadlines. Some awards carry application deadlines that require you to apply more than a year before study will actually begin. Prepare each application carefully and neatly. Your application gives your first impression. Some applications are online.

### **5. Don't Apply Unless You Are Sure You Qualify**

If you find you don't qualify for a particular award, don't apply for it. Instead, use your time and energy to identify and apply for more likely sources of aid.

### **6. Prepare for Applying for Scholarships**

Prepare as you would for a job interview. You are competing with other scholarship applicants. You can prepare yourself by thinking through your answers to the following often-asked questions:

- Describe yourself in a few sentences.
- What are your goals and ambitions for the future?
- Describe your involvement in your school.
- Describe your involvement in your community.
- Who is the individual that has influenced you the most and why?
- In your spare time, what do you enjoy doing?
- Do you have any special talents that make you stand out as an individual?
- If you were to help solve one problem in the world, which would it be and why?
- Why do you feel you should be chosen for this scholarship?

Note: If you need a Letter of Recommendation, be sure to ask your chosen recommender as early as possible so they have ample time to complete it.

### **A Word of Encouragement**

By doing your homework, you will greatly increase your chances of finding the necessary funding. The personal labor involved in securing financial support for your education is much like the resume rewriting and leaving no stone unturned which is also required during a job hunt. Success is likely to come to those who make themselves aware of the opportunities available, and who pursue those opportunities in a dedicated, continuous, and systematic manner. Frustration is part of the game and should not bring your search to a halt. In the quest for funding, your most valuable resource is your time and your creative initiative.

## Outside Scholarship Resources on the Web

Many organizations and foundations offer scholarship assistance to students by contacting local high schools and colleges. When scholarship programs send information to the USD Office of Financial Aid, the opportunities are posted on the [USD Financial Aid Web Site under Scholarships](#). Students should check our website on a regular basis since it is updated as information becomes available.

In addition, appropriate departments are contacted for assistance in posting the information within departments and for recommendations in identifying or nominating candidates. Criteria for these scholarships are determined by the donor(s) and can include such items as grade point average, class rank, major, SAT scores and/or documented need. Students who have not qualified for federal financial aid may compete for many of these scholarships, and are encouraged to do so. Please explore the links before for search engines and outside scholarship listings:

- **USD Financial Aid Web Site:** <https://www.sandiego.edu/financialaid/scholarships/outside-scholarships/>  
Current postings of scholarships available, many are also listed on the USD OFA Scholarship Bulletin Boards located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Hughes Administration Center on-campus.
- **FastWeb:** <http://www.fastweb.com>  
This scholarship search engine database includes over 1.3 million scholarships totaling over \$3 billion.
- **FinAid:** <http://www.finaid.org>  
This website is a free scholarship search program as well as a good site for financial aid sources. This site also provides information regarding scholarship scams, different types of aid, guide to applications, and a question and answer section.
- **Cappex:** <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>  
College Application Exchange, or Cappex, is a highly visited scholarship search engine similar to FastWeb.
- **Scholarship America:** <http://scholarshipamerica.org>  
Scholarship America's mission is to mobilize America through scholarships and educational support making postsecondary success possible for all students. Their search engine houses many worthwhile scholarships-this is a great place to start your scholarship search.
- **Kiwanis International Foundation:** <http://www.kiwanis.org/foundation/resources-and-downloads/scholarship-opportunities>  
Multiple scholarships available for graduating high school senior members of Key Club International and members of Circle K International ranging from \$500-\$2,500.
- **Ron Brown Scholar Program:** <http://www.RonBrown.org>  
The award entails leadership, community service, and is applicable to all fields. This is a prestigious and competitive scholarship of \$10,000 per year for 4 years.

- **Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship:** <http://www.JackieRobinson.org>  
JRF awards students four-year scholarships of up to \$6,000 per year to minority students based on academic merit, leadership potential and financial need.
- **United Negro College Fund Scholarships:** <https://www.uncf.org/scholarships>  
The UNCF is one of our major scholarship gateways. The awards are of varying amounts, and awarded by UNCF as well as other outside organizations. Students can conduct scholarship searches within the website. Scholarship deadlines vary.
- **Intel Science Talent Search:** <http://www.societyforscience.org/sts>  
Scholarship amounts start at \$5,000 and finalists receive a high-performance computer. There are approximately forty awards in this prestigious competition. You must present a scientific research project.
- **Linda Vista Dollars for Scholars:**  
[https://lindavista.dollarsforscholars.org/index.php?section=chapterWebsite&action=student\\_parent&fwID=1914](https://lindavista.dollarsforscholars.org/index.php?section=chapterWebsite&action=student_parent&fwID=1914)  
A San Diego nonprofit foundation that supports academic success in the Linda Vista community. Multiple scholarships available through partnership with Scholarship America.
- **National Society of Black Engineers Scholarships:**  
<http://www.nsbe.org/programs/scholarships.aspx>  
Offers a variety of awards and amounts generally range from \$500 to \$15,500 for members of NSBE. This is primarily for engineering students, and others majoring in related disciplines.
- **American Institute Of Certified Public Accountants Scholarships (AICPA):**  
<http://www.aicpa.org/becomeacpa/scholarships.html>  
This scholarship is for minority undergraduate or graduate students studying accounting with at least thirty credits completed. All applicants must be an AICPA student affiliate member. The awards are up to \$5,000 with about 300 winners annually.
- **Hispanic Scholarship Fund:** <https://www.hsf.net/>  
This is a major site for Hispanic students open to all majors and graduate fields, with an emphasis on STEM majors. The award amount varies from \$500-\$5,000.
- **Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarships:** <https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/>  
150 recipients are selected annually for this \$20,000 award. Only high school students planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S post-secondary institution may apply.
- **The San Diego Foundation:** <http://www.sdfoundation.org>  
There are over 146 scholarships for students in the San Diego region. Scholarships are available for graduating high school seniors, undergraduates and graduate students.

- **National Collegiate Athletic Association:** <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/ncaa-scholarships-and-grants>  
 The NCAA provides awards student athletes demonstrating outstanding academic and athletic achievement. Award amounts vary from \$3,000 to \$12,500. Scholarships are also available for sports related study (ex: sports journalism). The deadlines vary, as do the number of awards each year.
- **James Madison Memorial Fellowship Program:** <http://www.jamesmadison.gov/>  
 Individuals desiring to become outstanding teachers of the American Constitution at the secondary school level. Award amount is \$24,000.
- **Harry S. Truman Scholarship:** <http://www.truman.gov>  
 This is one of the most prestigious scholarships, shaped for students who intend to pursue a career in public service or government. You must be at least a junior, and your college must nominate you. A "nomination" package must be created. The awards can reach as high as \$30,000 over the years. Generally about eighty students are selected.
- **National Association of Hispanic Journalists:** <http://www.nahj.org>  
 Students interested in journalism as a career can apply to multiple NAHJ scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.
- **National Association of Black Journalists:** <http://www.nabj.org/page/2018NABJScholarships>  
 NABJ offers scholarships for up to \$5,000. Students should be attending a four-year University or eligible graduate students. All applicants must be a member of NABJ and majoring in journalism-print, photography, radio or television.
- **National Association of Black Accountants Inc:** <https://www.nabainc.org/scholarship>  
 NABA offers 50 national scholarships ranging from \$1000 - \$5,000 to students preparing to enter various business professions. All applicants must be NABA members to apply.
- **American Association of University Women, San Diego:** <http://www.aauwsandiego.org/localscholarships.html>  
 AAUW San Diego Branch promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. Awarding annual scholarships from \$750-\$1,500.

## A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

Call numbers are included for publications located in the USD Copley Library (CL) or the USD Law Library/Legal Resource Center (LRC).

CL Reference  
LB2338.S35  
(2019)

**SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIP AND LOANS.** Norman Feingold. Bellman Publication Company, Boston, MA. Annual. Thirty-Sixth Edition, Multiple Volumes. A guide to education-related financial aid programs for students and professionals.

CL Reserve and  
Newspapers and  
online for USD  
students, faculty, and  
staff

**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.** Weekly. A newspaper for the higher education community, which lists new fellowship programs. Write to: Circulation Department, The Chronicle of Higher Education, P.O. Box 1955, Marion, OH 43305-1955 or call 800.728.2803. Provides higher education news and lists new fellowship programs. Also available online.

CL Reference  
LB2338.G7  
(2016)

**THE GRANTS REGISTER.** Ruth Austin. St. Martin's Press, 175 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10010. . Annual. Lists awards available to graduates, young professionals, academic staff, and scholars for study and research around the world. Awards are listed by granting agency.

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