

Learning about Scholarships



COMMON MYTHS

Don't fool yourself into believing one of these myths

- ✓ My grades aren't good enough...
- ✓ My family makes too much money...
- ✓ I haven't chosen a major yet...

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Communication

A scholarship ***applicant*** should...

- ✓ ASK specific questions
- ✓ ASK if documents have been received
- ✓ ASK if they are complete

A scholarship ***provider*** will...

- ✓ EXPLAIN the process to students
- ✓ ANSWER students' questions
- ✓ SEND NO REMINDERS about what's missing

Eligibility

Each scholarship has unique and different eligibility requirements

Competition

For scholarships you must...

- ✓ Meet eligibility requirements
- ✓ Apply
- ✓ COMPETE with other applicants

WHERE DO I LOOK?

Start locally:

- ✓ Local High School, Town Offices, Employers
- ✓ Local Community Groups (*Elks, Lions, Rotary, Places of Worship, etc.*)
- ✓ Word of mouth- parents!!!-
- ✓ VSAC Scholarships Booklet
- ✓ At your college or university
- ✓ At your local library or the VSAC Resource Center

Finish Globally

- ✓ VSAC's Favorite web picks on www.vvac.org
- ✓ VSAC's Scholarships Pathfinder (*available through the VSAC Resource Center OR on-line*)

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

How do scholarships affect other financial aid?

Ask each school...

- ✓ What is their policy regarding "outside" scholarships?
- ✓ How will receiving a scholarship affect other aid you may receive?

Carefully Consider...

- ✓ *Will it reduce **LOANS**?*
- ✓ *Will it reduce **WORK-STUDY**?*
- ✓ *Will it reduce **GRANTS**?*
- ✓ *Will it reduce **SCHOLARSHIPS**?*

What about scams?

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

- ✓ "This scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- ✓ "You can't get this information anywhere else!"

How are recipients selected?

Selection criteria are typically listed in order of importance
Each criterion "filters" the applicant pool further

Will I be notified?

It depends on the scholarship!

VSAC-Assisted Scholarships – you are notified either way

Generally 8-10 weeks AFTER postmark deadline has passed

SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS WILL...

- ✓ **IDENTIFY** all scholarships for which they are eligible to apply
- ✓ **READ** and **FOLLOW** instructions
- ✓ **SUBMIT** all required documents ***before March 1 postmark deadline***

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