A scholarship is money you apply for and may receive based on financial need or merit. Scholarships are gifts. You do not need to pay them back. You are encouraged to apply for scholarships throughout your college career, not just before you start college. Many scholarships are available to students who are already in college.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are a great way to help manage college costs. You don’t have to repay them, as you do loans, or work to earn them, as you do work-study funds. But because there are so many scholarships available, it’s sometimes hard to know where to begin. Use this guide to help you get started. Remember, there are many free ways to search for scholarships.

- **Local public libraries**
  Check out the college section at your local public library. The reference librarian can help you find scholarship resources, including the College Board Scholarship Handbook. While you’re at the library, you’ll also be able to research other college information, such as college costs and other sources of financial aid.

- **Public and private organizations**
  Look into religious, community service, fraternal, military, union or professional organizations. Many offer scholarships for higher education. Don’t forget to ask your parents to check with their employers.

- **State agencies**
  Check to see if your state offers scholarships and grant programs for residents. This is a great place to look if you plan to attend college in your own state. Look on your state’s website or contact your Redstone student finance specialist for more information.

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Scholarship essays** - One of the ways organizations get to know you through your scholarship application is with a personal essay. While the topic may change from application to application—why you’ll attend college, what you’ll study, and so forth—how you approach the essay remains the same.

First, organize your thoughts. Start with a brief outline of what you want to write about; this should include an introduction, two to four points you’d like to cover in the body of the essay, plus your conclusion.

- In the introduction, summarize your essay and what points you will make.
- In the body, state each point and explain why it is important.
- In the conclusion, review the main points. This final paragraph is your chance to make a lasting impression!
All scholarships received will be counted as a financial resource when determining eligibility for student grants and loans.

Have questions? If you have any questions about applying for scholarships or how or when any scholarship money you are awarded will be applied to your college expenses, just call or visit your Redstone student finance specialist.

TIPS FOR SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

1. **Start your research early.**
   Many scholarships have deadlines early in the fall.

2. **Read eligibility requirements carefully.**

3. **Proofread your application carefully.**
   Have a parent, teacher or friend read your essays to check for grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors.

4. **Don’t leave items blank.**
   If you’re not sure how to fill out any part of the application, contact the scholarship sponsor for more information.

5. **Follow instructions exactly.**
   Don’t exceed the length limit for the essay, and resist the temptation to send supporting materials that are not requested in the application.

6. **Organize your scholarship materials.**
   Create a separate file for each scholarship, and file the paperwork by application date. Keep a calendar of application deadlines and follow-up appointments.

7. **Make sure your application is legible.**
   Type or legibly print your application forms and essays.

8. **Make copies of everything you send.**
   If application materials are lost, having copies on hand will make it easier to resend your application.

9. **Double-check your application before submitting it.**
   If you’re reusing material from another scholarship application, be careful you haven’t left in any incorrect information. And don’t forget to sign and date your application.

10. **Get your applications in early.**
    You won’t receive scholarship money if you miss application deadlines. Consider using certified mail or return receipt to make sure your application arrived on time.

**REDSTONE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Redstone’s high school scholarship program recognizes motivated high school seniors and encourages them to pursue advanced career education in the fields of their choice. One or two seniors per high school (depending on size) who are enrolled at any Redstone campus may each receive $2,500 toward their Redstone tuition.

**Application procedures**

Students may obtain a scholarship application from a Redstone admissions representative, a Redstone campus staff member or by downloading a form from Redstone.edu/highschool.

**Eligibility requirements**

- You must be a high school senior or current-year GED recipient.
- You must enroll in a Redstone degree program.
- You must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or be recommended by a high school educator, counselor, administrator, community leader or employer.
- You must meet all admissions requirements to Redstone College as outlined in the current academic catalog.