



WINTER BREAK SCHOLARSHIP PACKET



Scholarship Success Guide

INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE:

- ✓ Scholars Programs
- ✓ Scholarship Search Engines
- ✓ Essay Writing Tips
- ✓ Scholarship Portfolio
- ✓ Recommendation Request
- ✓ Sample Academic Resume

Winning Scholarship Applications!!!

This guide is designed to help you organize and complete scholarships applications.

This guide includes information about major funding opportunities and gives important information on how to create your very own scholarship portfolio.

Best Wishes,
College Access Team



Many Scholarships go un-awarded because nobody applies! It's easier than you think!

Scholar's Program

Scholar's Programs seek to identify students who will make significant contributions to society. Applicants must excel academically, show exceptional leadership potential and make an impact on their communities through service to others. Scholars program provide financial resources, mentorship and academic support to students for 4 years.

Full Ride Scholarship Program	www.tomjoynerfoundation.org/	\$ 40,000.00
GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship	www.reaganfoundation.org	\$ 40,000.00
Hunt Leadership Program (SMU)	www.smu.edu/hunt	\$ 180,000.00
Jack Cooke Kent Scholar	www.jkcf.org	\$ 160,000.00
Jackie Robinson Scholars Program	www.jackierobinson.org	\$ 40,000.00
McDermott Scholar's Program (UTD)	www.utdallas.edu/mcdermott	\$ 160,000.00
Ron Brown Scholar Program	www.ronbrown.org	\$ 40,000.00
ScholarShot	www.scholarshot.or	\$ 24,000.00
GPISD Local Scholarship	https://www.gpisd.org/Page/48132	Varies
Raise.me	https://www.raise.me/	Varies
Opportunity Scholarship (CollegeBoard)	https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/	Varies

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH TOOLS

[Big Future by The College](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

[Board \(www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org\)](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org) allows you to search for scholarships, financial aid, and internships from more than 2,200 programs, totaling nearly \$6 billion. With the ability to customize your search based on personal information, academic information, type of award and affiliation information, you are able to optimize your results and really find what you are looking for.

[College Greenlight](http://www.collegegreenlight.com)

www.collegegreenlight.com is a free college and scholarship search site that has been built for students just like you! With thousands of up-to-date and honest college profiles, the largest database of scholarships online, and the ability to keep track of your favorite colleges and scholarships, College Greenlight takes the stress out of searching for college and financial aid.

[The United Negro College](http://www.uncf.org)

[Fund \(www.uncf.org\)](http://www.uncf.org) For more than seven

decades, this principle has remained at the heart of UNCF, enabling them to raise more than \$4.7 billion and help more than 445,000 students and counting not just attend college, but thrive, graduate and become leaders.

UNCF do this in three ways: By awarding more than 10,000 students scholarships, worth more than \$100 million, each year. By providing financial support to 37 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). And by serving as the nation's leading advocate for the importance of minority education and community engagement.

[Scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) is a free website that can help you find money for school, even as colleges discover and recruit you! You can find college scholarships and get recruited based on your college selections and the data you provide in your profile.



TIPS ON SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

The Key Points to include in Your Essay

- **Think of the essay as a scholarship interview:** Convince reader you are the one who needs financial assistance and deserves it because of your commitment and achievements.
- **Be specific, positive, and personal:** The more to the point, the stronger you will sound. Turn any negative to a positive, and thus show that even an obstacle can be a motivation for an achievement. Do not generalize; write about yourself and your strengths.
- **Understand the purpose:** Show that you are the student, who has faced difficulties and financial need, but never gave up the pursuit of educational and future career goals. Moreover, emphasize that you have worked hard, demonstrate your achievements through examples or facts such as GPA, honors, community involvement, leadership or any outstanding positions. Also, confirm that you are still eagerly pursuing your academic goal(s).
- **Identify:** Your academic goal, major, GPA, and show a considerable achievement by mentioning obstacles and the commitment for education
- **Use an academic essay structure:** Introduction, Body, and Conclusion

Introduction: Begin with a strong introduction that draws in the reader's attention.

Tell briefly about yourself, your academic and career goals as well as state the steps you have done for the pursuit of your goals

Thesis: As the last sentence of your introduction, state firmly your opinion

that you deserve to win the scholarship, and support it by mentioning why you should be considered as the candidate to win. State at least three reasons that show (1) **obstacles and financial need you have and are still facing**, (2) **your motivations, commitment, and achievements**, as well as (3) **how the scholarship will encourage you in your further achievements**.

Body: Develop the supporting qualifications mentioned in the thesis by providing concrete details, facts, examples. (1) Identify the obstacles you have confronted and are still facing, (2) As a contrast, show your commitment for education and for achieving your goals (state if you are full or part time student and your GPA). Mention what has motivated you to choose your major, and how you have succeeded so far. (3) State how the scholarship will be a motivation for new achievements.

Conclusion: Confirm your opinion that you deserve to be the scholarship winner and restate briefly the supporting qualifications you have mentioned in your thesis. Re-convey who you are and your motivations for receiving a scholarship. End with optimism and reaffirm that scholarship will not only be a financial assistant that you need so much, but most importantly an encouragement for more achievements toward the pursuit of your goals.

- **Proofread and check the word limit requirement**



Scholarship Portfolio

A scholarship portfolio is a great way to organize the documentation you will need to successfully complete a scholarship application. You will find that having these items available in a central location will not only make the scholarship application process easier, but also less stressful. The following five items should always be kept up-to-date and included in your scholarship portfolio.

1. Résumé

Many scholarship providers will expect you to include a listing of your employment and volunteer positions, as well as extracurricular activities, awards and honors, and any leadership positions. All of these details can be easily combined into a résumé, which can often save you considerable time when filling out scholarship applications.

2. Transcripts

In some cases, providers will require an official document, but many will also accept copies. It's not a bad idea to order two or three official copies at the beginning of each year or semester, as well as keeping several unofficial copies on hand.

3. Student Aid Report

Students are required to submit proof of financial need. This may include a copy of your most recent tax form (or your parents'), and/or a copy of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You should have several copies of each, as well as your Student Aid Report (SAR), included in your scholarship portfolio. Only provide your Student Aid Report when required. Not all scholarships will require you to submit this information.

4. Scholarship Essay

A common element used in college and scholarship application, the personal statement is one item that should definitely be included in a scholarship portfolio. Scholarship providers often use the personal statement to gain insight into an applicant's beliefs and core values, so it's important to take the time to draft a well-written piece that does not resemble your résumé or transcripts.

5. Recommendation Letter

It's important to understand many of the people you may approach to write a letter for you have other responsibilities and obligations. They may also be writing letters for other students, as well. The quickest way to have someone decline to write a recommendation, or provide you with a sub-par letter, is to wait until the last minute to ask for their assistance. Be sure to give everyone you ask a minimum of two to four weeks to complete a letter of recommendation

Senior Request for Recommendation Information Sheet

Name: _____ Student Id # _____

Academic GPA (6 Semesters)
Unweighted: _____

Future Goals (*possible careers, colleges applying, and possible majors*):

Why do you want to attend college? (include your goals, possible major/minor)

Awards/Honors (*name of award, high school grade level awarded*):

List five adjectives (or phrases) that describe you and explain each by using a personal anecdote.

Special interests, hobbies, talents:

a.

b.

High School Organizations/Service (*name of organization, activities, total hours, and grade level*):

c.

d.

Non-School Service (*name of organization, total hours, duties, grade level*):

e.

Describe and explain your pride in one
Write an example of a comment that a teacher might write about you.

Work experience (*name of employer, hours per week, and duties – grade level*):

Are there any circumstances, school experiences

or people who have influenced your life?

helpful.

List any additional information you may find

SAMPLE ACADEMIC RESUME

John Grand
JohnGrand@gpisd.com
(913) 555-5555

RESUME PROFILE

Outstanding student with experience in print and online journalism seeks opportunity to learn by doing while working with a communication, public relations, or publishing firm through a part-time job or summer internship.

EDUCATION

Completed three years at Hometown High School.
Graduation date: May 2017.
G.P.A. 3.85. Top 5% of class.

EXPERIENCE

Newspaper Staff Member, Hometown High School

- **Aug 2013 - present.** Features editor of campus newspaper, responsible for award-winning design.
- **Aug 2010 - Aug 2013.** Researched information for news articles using library and Web sources. Composed and edited informational articles, columns, editorials, and advertising copy.

Yearbook Committee Member, Hometown High School

- **Aug 2014 - present.** Editor-in-chief of yearbook staff. Leader of design and publication teams from initial layout through finished product.
- **Aug 2014 - Aug 2016.** Yearbook staff member. Experience taking photographs, designing layout, and writing captions and sidebars.

RELEVANT HIGH SCHOOL STUDIES

Technical writing; advanced composition; debate; video production; computer classes providing knowledge of word processing, desktop publishing, and Web software.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND MEMBERSHIPS

- **U.S. Media Association Scholarship recipient**
Scholarship based on academic achievement, community service, and campus participation and leadership in high school communications projects and studies.
- **2016 Best High School Newspaper Design winner**
Central State Regional Communications Contest, sponsored by the Communications Department, State University.

- **President of high school chapter of Future Communicators of America (FCA), 2015 - present**
Member, 2011 - present.
- **Treasurer of National Honor Society, 2015 – present**