

## **Tips for Winning Scholarships**

1. Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. Don't wait until spring of your senior year in high school to start searching, or you'll miss half the deadlines. Continue searching for scholarships even after you are enrolled in college.
2. Look for local scholarships on bulletin boards near the guidance counselor or financial aid offices and/or your school's website. Many communities offer local scholarships through clubs, organizations, small businesses, and benefactors. The odds of winning these scholarships are greater because they're open to a smaller group of students.
3. Apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. Pursue less competitive scholarships, such as small awards and essay contests, since they are easier to win and the money adds up and helps you win bigger scholarships.
4. Don't miss deadlines. Use a calendar and checklist to get organized.
5. Tailor your application and essay to the sponsor's goals. Read and follow all instructions carefully.
6. If you have difficulty writing essays, try recording yourself as you answer the question out loud, and transcribe the recording later. Most people can think and speak faster than they can write or type. Create an outline afterward to organize your thoughts.
7. Make your essay personal, but don't introduce yourself in it. Your name and other information are already present on your application. Be passionate and write about something of interest to you. Make your application stand out from the crowd. Talk about your impact on other people. Give examples and be specific.
8. Google your name and make sure you have a professional online profile. Use a professional email address, such as `firstname.lastname@gmail.com`. Clean up the content of your social media accounts, removing inappropriate and immature material.
9. Proofread a printed copy of your essay and the application for spelling and grammar errors.
10. Make a photocopy of your application before mailing it. Send the application by certified mail, return receipt requested or with delivery confirmation.