



SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

6-8-20

Scholarships are grants of financial aid awarded to students, usually based on academic or artistic merit or financial need. Unlike other forms of financial aid, scholarships do not have to be repaid.

As the price of tuition increases, scholarships become even more of a necessity. With the current financial situation, supplementing your tuition with scholarships is essential to help pay for college.

Differences between art scholarships and regular scholarships

Most scholarships require you to fill out an application listing your scholarly and academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, and usually require an essay describing your eligibility for the award.

Art scholarships are very similar in their academic and extra-curricular requirements, but also usually include a portfolio requirement and artist's statement. The portfolio can range from one or two sample images up to ten or more. The portfolio can be tailored to the particular field of study the award is based on. For example, a fine art scholarship committee would require only artwork created using traditional mediums like oil, acrylic, or watercolor, while animation scholarship judges might require a demo reel of digital art samples. The artist's statement is usually a description of why you want to be an artist, artists you admire, and your artistic goals.

Academics and grade point average (GPA) are still important indicators of your “scholarship worthiness,” but they may not be emphasized as highly as a strong portfolio.

Kinds of scholarships

Art scholarships can be divided into several types or categories:

1. **Portfolio scholarships** are awarded based on the strength, quality, and potential of the applicant's artwork portfolio.
2. **Academic scholarships** are awarded based on SAT/ACT scores, and are evaluated on a scale with consideration for critical reading and math scores.
3. **Merit scholarships** (scholarships combining artistic and academic honors) are awarded based on a combination of artistic skill and academic achievement.
4. **Need-based scholarships** are awarded based solely on the applicant's financial situation.
5. **Sociological scholarships** are awarded based on the applicant's race, religion, or nationality, in addition to academic requirements.
6. **Institutional scholarships** are granted by the school the student attends or plans to attend.
7. **General scholarships** are given by various institutions and organizations associated with the student or the student's family, such as industry groups and corporations.

Creative Center cannot guarantee any results from any scholarship search.

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How to find scholarships

When you are ready to begin your scholarship search, knowing where to look is the key to success.

1. High School

There are several resources you can tap at your high school. Guidance counselors often keep files or bulletin boards with scholarship opportunities. Art instructors are often involved in the local arts community and may be able to help you find local resources.

2. College/University

Your art school is the first place you should start your art scholarship search. Many schools have various art scholarship opportunities, for both new and existing students. Contact the Admissions department office and ask for information on what scholarships they offer and when the deadlines for application are. Also, visit the school web site and research their Financial Aid section.

3. Internet / Online

Use your favorite search engine to find art scholarships. Info is freely available at various web sites. Many allow you to sign up for scholarships directly. But beware of any scholarship or service that requires payment to apply. Basic online security applies-- never give out sensitive information to an unknown source.

4. Other potential scholarship sources include:

- Professional organizations
- Art industry and trade groups
- Community and civic groups
- Local businesses
- Art contests
- Your employer (or your parent's employer) - Many large corporations, like Target or Wal-Mart have scholarship foundations.
- Charitable Foundations
- The Military - There are many scholarships available to the military community.
- Religious organizations
- Community Service
- Unions
- Schools - Some Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs) offer scholarships to graduates from elementary and middle schools.

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Tips for Applying for Scholarships

- ✓ **Follow the instructions to the letter.**
Be sure to follow the guidelines for essay length, format, number of portfolio images, extra information (or not), etc. It can be tempting to go above and beyond in providing information, but remember that the judges are busy folks and inundating them with irrelevant info will only hurt your chances. According to Straightforwardmedia.com, 98% of scholarship applications get tossed in the trash due to mistakes or not following the instructions.
- ✓ **Give it your best shot.**
Scholarships are intensely competitive, so presenting your absolute best every step of the way (not just on the essay and portfolio) is a must.
- ✓ **It's the little things.**
Double and triple check your grammar and spelling on every part of the application. Have several people proofread your essay. Make sure your portfolio is clean and organized. Make sure your application and other materials are clean and crisp. Have a third-party artist review everything!
- ✓ **Apply to as many scholarships as you can!**
Never assume any scholarship is a sure win (or a sure loss). You never know whose eye your application might catch. Just be sure you actually meet the qualifications before applying.
- ✓ **Be Timely.**
Most scholarships have a deadline, and most deadlines are early in the year. Be sure to get all applications in on time in order to assure that it will be reviewed.

When to Apply for Scholarships

- ✓ Get a head start! Begin your scholarship search very early on and give yourself plenty of time to research different scholarships and the requirements of each. If you are in high school, contact your guidance counselor for help. There is free money out there to help you fund your education. Take advantage of it!
- ✓ You should plan to begin your art school scholarship search several months before you are scheduled to begin your art classes (at the very least). Ideally, you should begin your art scholarship search one to two years ahead of time. This may seem unnecessarily early, but you may need time to work on meeting certain requirements - GPA, community service, extracurricular activities, etc.
- ✓ When you receive your scholarship application forms, be careful to read them completely and thoroughly; make note of the entry deadlines, and add them to your calendar.
- ✓ Also, allow plenty of time for your application to arrive via mail.

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SCHOLARSHIP OPTIONS

Creative Center (CC) Scholarships:

The Creative Center offers scholarships to new students who exhibit exceptional talent, creativity and academic standing. The Creative Center recommends prospective students submit applications and portfolios as early as possible. Scholarships are confined by a limited amount of funds. Based on previous interest, scholarships are depleted by March. Scholarships are applied to student accounts in the third semester (in the second year).

- **President's Scholarship** - This \$1,000 scholarship recognizes above-average students who have exhibited a high level of talent in art.
- **Founder's Scholarship of Excellence** - This \$2,000 scholarship has been established to recognize those students who have outstanding artistic talent and academic standing.

Andy Arrants Memorial Scholarship:

This scholarship is available to CC students only and pays for the first-year supply kit (approx. \$500 value). It was founded in memory of Andy Arrants, a student at CC who died in 2007. Applications are available through the admissions department: 402-898-1000 or admissions@creativecenter.edu.

EducationQuest Foundation Personalized Scholarship Search:

With offices located in Omaha, Kearney, and Lincoln, EducationQuest Foundation offers scholarship assistance online or by personal appointments, as well as other college planning services. Their services are free of charge, but you must schedule an appointment for any of their services.

www.educationquest.org: Then click on the link entitled "ScholarshipQuest."

11031 Elm St, Omaha
402-391-4033
888-357-6300

1300 O St, Lincoln
402-475-5222
800-303-3745

2706 2nd Ave, Kearney
308-234-6310
800-666-3721

ICAN Scholarship Database:

<https://www.icansucceed.org/financial-aid/scholarships-and-grants>

- *All scholarships are for Iowa students, unless otherwise stated.*
- *For more information on any scholarships, contact the organization listed.*
- *Most annual scholarships update application deadlines in December of each year. If a scholarship shows a deadline that is a past date, the scholarship organization has not yet updated for the new cycle. Most annual deadlines occur at the same time of year, so you can begin planning utilizing the past deadline and check back for an updated deadline once it has been set. If you still have questions for a particular scholarship, please contact the organization listed about their current opportunities.*

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Internet Search Sites:

*The following list of internet sites can be used as a reference tool for students and parents. The Creative Center does not endorse or assume responsibility for any internet site listed. It is recommended that you use only free scholarship searches. Be aware that submitting personal information to Web sites may result in that information being sold to mailing lists and that may lead to the receipt of unsolicited materials. **Be very cautious of scholarships scams!***

If you are suspicious, visit the Federal Trade Commission online for more information. www.ftc.gov

Many scholarship sites have you fill out a profile and then will provide you with a list of scholarship options. *Be sure to click "no thanks" to the advertisements that can be disguised as scholarship opportunities.*

- **www.fastweb.com**
- **www.studentscholarships.org**
- **www.scholarships.com**
- **www.scholarshippoints.com**
- **www.collegexpress.com**
- **www.cappex.com/scholarships**
- **www.goodcall.com/scholarships**
- **www.unigo.com/scholarships**
- **www.salliemae.com/college-planning/tools/scholarship-search/**
- **www.collegescholarships.org**
Find information on scholarships as well as grants and loans.
- **www.finaid.org** “The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid”
Find information on scholarships in general as well as their “FastWeb’s Free Scholarship Search” and also “other free scholarship search sites.”
- **<https://studentaid.ed.gov/>**
Find information on scholarships and grants.
- **www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx/**
The US Department of Labor’s free scholarship search tool

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Remember: not all the scholarships will apply to you, so be sure to check carefully for qualifications and restrictions.

American Advertising Federation
<http://aafomaha.org/student-resources>

Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org/nebraska
Student of Integrity Award

Cargill
www.cargillglobalscholars.com

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students:
www.agbell.org
*In search box at top of page, type
"scholarship."*

DoSomething.org
www.dosomething.org/scholarships

Foreclosure.com
www.foreclosure.com/scholarship

The Gates Millennium Scholars
www.gmsp.org

Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes
<http://barronprize.org>

Greeting Card Contest
<http://www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm>

Interior Deluxe
www.interior-deluxe.com/scholarship

Native American Students:
www.collegefund.org

NEST529 College Savings:
<https://www.nest529direct.com/home/grow/scholarships--rewards.html>

US Bank Scholarship Program:
usbank.com/scholarship

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