

Scholarship Guide



Scholarships are a valuable source of financial aid that you do not have to repay! There are a lot of scholarships available to you if you know where to look and take the time to apply. Getting started is the hardest part. Once you start, you can often reuse essays and letters of recommendation. Use this guide as a way to help you get started. **Please feel free to contact the Alverno College Financial Aid Office** if you have any questions or need assistance.

Good luck with your scholarship search!

Other On-Campus Resources

Career & Professional Development Center:
(Resume writing assistance)
Phone: 414-382-6010

Alverno **Communication Resource Center:**
(Scholarship essay writing assistance)
Phone: 414-382-6016
Email: instructionalservices@alverno.edu

Alverno **Registrar:**
(Transcripts, \$5 per official copy)
Phone: 414-382-6370
Email: registrar@alverno.edu

Alverno College Financial Aid Office

Phone: 414-382-6262
Room: FO134
Email: financial.aid@alverno.edu

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where can I find scholarships?

Alverno posts all the scholarships it hears about on its website. Please visit alverno.edu/scholarship frequently and click on “Current Scholarship List”. The Financial Aid Office will update this as they hear about any scholarships. Looking for scholarships that only fit your situation? Try these popular scholarship search engines:

- cappex.com/scholarships
- fastweb.com
- petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx
- collegeanswer.com/registration/Registration.aspx?mode=scholar
- scholarships.com
- saltmoney.org/scholarshipsearch

Remember to never pay when completing any scholarship applications!

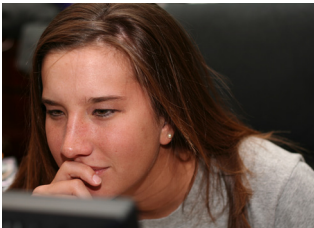
Scholarship Tips

- **Apply** for as many scholarships as possible.
- **Don't neglect** smaller, local scholarships.
- **Bridge** multiple applications.
 - Survey the requirements for each scholarship and make the essay overlap to meet each need.
- Keep **organized**.
- Make schoolwork **into** scholarship work.
 - Class writing assignments might be related to scholarship questions.
- **Stick with it.**
 - You may apply for ten scholarships and not win any, but don't give up.
Keep applying!
- **Search** other schools websites for scholarships; they might be different than the ones offered at your current school.
- Get **electronic copies** of recommendation letters to reduce the burden on the person who is writing the recommendation letter. This way you can print as many copies as you need.
- Scholarships generally don't cost anything to enter. Scholarship scams do exist. **Don't assume** everything is legitimate
- The harder you have to dig to **find a scholarship** the greater the odds that someone else won't.

Writing the Scholarship Essay

Essay Dos and Don'ts:

- **Don't skip** application questions. Write "N/A" or "not applicable" if it does not apply to you.
- **Do communicate** the most important information in the first paragraph.
- **Do talk about** something of interest to you. Tell a story.
- **Do adhere** to word limits.



Essay Tips:

- **Show**, don't tell.
 - Show the judges that you are "exceptionally trustworthy" by describing an event or activity where you demonstrated these skills.
- Keep things **personal**.
 - Make your essay intensely personal by relating your essay question to your unique experience and perspectives.
- Keep your essay **organized** and easy to follow.
- **Make each sentence count**.
- Make your essay **unique and memorable**.
- **Keep a list** of activities you do, personal information, credentials, background of your family, characteristics, interests, goals and affiliations (including family affiliations), talents, skills, and future plans to make essay writing easier.

Examples of **action verbs** for use in a scholarship application:

analyzed	designed	generated	invented	presented	sold
built	developed	guided	judged	printed	solved
checked	discovered	helped	launched	produced	studied
collected	drafted	implemented	led	promoted	summarized
compared	edited	improved	monitored	proposed	supervised
conducted	educated	increased	motivated	published	supported
conserved	evaluated	informed	negotiated	recruited	taught
coordinated	executed	initiated	observed	repaired	tested
counseled	explained	inspired	offered	resolved	trained
demonstrated	fixed	installed	organized	restored	united
described	founded	integrated	planned	served	

Scholarship Myths

Don't believe everything that you hear about scholarships, especially the myth that they aren't worth the time to apply for.

Myth #1: Only low-income families get help paying for college.

- Regardless of how much money you and your family have, you can still win scholarships.

Myth #2: Once you have graduated from high school it's too late.

- Even if you missed out in high school, you still have plenty of time; most scholarship programs for college students don't specify age requirements.

Myth #3: Focusing on a few awards maximizes your odds of winning.

- Applying for scholarships is a numbers game. Applying for a large number of scholarships can maximize your odds of winning.

Other forms of Financial Aid

Institutional Payment Plan

The Alverno College Business Office offers payment plans to help you break your tuition balance into affordable payments.

Work-Study

You can work on campus around your class schedule. The wage you earn from your work study job is not treated as income on your next application for need-based aid.

Military Scholarships and Benefits

The military offers a number of excellent ways to get all or a big chunk of your college education paid for. This decision should be based on a careful examination of whether serving in America's armed forces is right for you.

AmeriCorps

If you're looking for a great way to help others, make a meaningful contribution to society, and earn some college funding on the side, volunteering with AmeriCorps may be right for you.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

If you're 25% or more Native American, there may funds available to you both through your affiliated tribe and through state agencies.

Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

If you receive DVR funds for living expenses there may be a training grant available to use toward your education. Contact your local Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to see if you qualify.

Employer Tuition Reimbursement

Many employers offer tuition reimbursement for their employees and sometimes their employee's families. Check with your employer as well as your spouse's or parent's employers to see if tuition reimbursement is available. Even if tuition reimbursement is not available, scholarships for employees or employee family members may be available.