

Best Websites to Find College Scholarships

1. Fastweb.com**

Fastweb hosts more than 1.5 million scholarships that provide more than \$3.4 billion. Once you create a profile, the site's search feature will help you find the most accurate matches that fit your needs. Your personal profile is how the site helps you find pretty much exactly what you're looking for.

You can then also see all the scholarships you applied for, or may want to apply to in the future. They also have 'contests' that you can enter monthly or weekly to win money.

2. Collegeboard.org*

While the College Board is known for its college planning tools, it also has an arm that focuses on scholarships. Big Future hosts scholarships, as well as other financial aid and internship information from more than 2,200 programs — totaling nearly \$6 billion. In order to get the most accurate search results, it's critical to fill out as many details as you can in the profile that's used for searching.

3. Niche.com*

Formerly known as College Prowler, Niche is a great tool that can help you find colleges AND money. It's organized into categories that make it pretty easy to find what you're looking for — allowing users to search by interest, career, major and other areas.

Niche also has some contests to enter.

4. Scholarships.com*

Scholarships.com hosts one of the largest scholarship databases out there and it's updated on a daily basis. According to the site, "With more than 2.7 million scholarship and grant opportunities worth more than \$19 billion, just about everyone is bound to find something."

It's easy to browse by category, but the best way to take advantage of what the site has to offer is to make a personal profile, which will allow you to find the most exhaustive lists of opportunities available to you.

5. Moolahspot.com

Moolahspot isn't as robust as some of the other scholarship databases, but in the search for a college scholarship, it's another option to help you find extra money.

6. CollegeNET.com*

When you go to the site's homepage, go to the top right corner to search college scholarships. From there you can either search by specific keywords or create a personal profile in order to get the most accurate matches that fit your needs. Once you make a profile, you create and save lists of opportunities you're interested in.

7. Scholarship Monkey*

Scholarship Monkey allows you to search for scholarships a few different ways. You can search by keyword, browse scholarship lists (various categories/topics) and also see lists of the latest and featured scholarships. The site also allows you to create a personal profile for more accurate results.

8. Cappex**

Cappex hosts a database of more than \$11 billion in scholarship opportunities. Once you create a personal profile, you can search for opportunities that directly match your strengths and skills. Plus, Cappex has a tool that will calculate your odds of getting into a certain college before you even apply.

9. Chegg*

Chegg is widely known for its online textbook store that allows students to either rent or buy textbooks for cheap. But Chegg is also a great resource for finding scholarships — more than \$1 billion worth of them.

To search for available scholarships, go to ‘colleges’ at the top of the homepage and then click ‘scholarships’ in the drop-down menu. Once you create a personal profile, you can search for available opportunities that match your criteria. Chegg also has a ‘top scholarship picks this week’ category that highlights some options you may have missed.

10. Unigo *

Unigo hosts millions of available scholarships and makes it easy to search by type, including: athletic scholarships, college-specific scholarships, company-based scholarships, minority scholarships, major-specific scholarships, state-specific scholarships and more. You can search by category or create a personal profile to get more specific results that match your needs. Unigo also offers [scholarship contests and sweepstakes](#).

11. Peterson’s *

Peterson’s hosts \$10 billion in scholarship opportunities and also provides information to help you in your search. Once you fill out a short survey, you can filter your search results so they’re tailored to your specific needs.

The site also allows users to [search by a variety of different topics](#), college types and personal details — in order to give you the best results for you.

12. The U.S. Labor Department’s Free Search Tool

According to the official [Student Aid website](#), this free tool is a great resource for students to search more than 7,500 scholarships, grants and other various types of financial aid award opportunities.

The [CareerOneStop tool](#) allows you to:

- Look through the site’s entire inventory of scholarships, arranged in order of closest deadline.

- Narrow your list with a “search by keyword” option: Just enter a keyword about the type of award you’re looking for.
- Use the filters to see opportunities for only certain types of awards, locations, level of study, and more.

Financial Aid Terms and Definitions

Before you start to apply for any scholarships, you should familiarize yourself with some basic terms and definitions. The following list isn’t exhaustive, but it includes the terms you’re most likely to come across during your search.

Award letter	The financial aid award letter details all of the various forms of aid you’re eligible to receive through your prospective school, including grants, scholarships, and loans. It’s only a statement of all the aid that you qualify for. You’re under no obligation to accept any of it.
Cost of Attendance (COA)	The cost of attendance is the total price for one year of college after all tuition, fees, and required personal expenses are calculated.
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	Your EFC is the amount of money the government expects your family to contribute to your tuition. They determine that amount contribution based on your parent’s financial information that must be submitted as a part of the FAFSA.
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)	The FAFSA is the form used to apply for federal financial aid. The information you provide on it determines your Expected Family Contribution.
Federal student aid	Federal student aid consists of federal student loans, grants, and work studies that are awarded by the government based on financial need.
Financial Aid Package	Your financial aid package is the combination of all forms of aid, from all sources, that you are eligible to receive. Your aid package is detailed in the award letter sent to you by your prospective school.
Grants	Grants are a form of tuition assistance typically awarded by federal and state governments based on financial need and demographic requirements. Unlike federal loans, they don’t need to be repaid.
Student Loans	Student loans are tuition money that must be paid back to the lender over time with interest.
Net Price	Net price is the true cost of college after all gift aid and educational tax benefits are deducted. It’s what’s left for you to pay out of pocket once all of your grants and scholarships are applied.
Room and board	Room and board is the cost to live on campus. Living on campus will increase your overall cost of attendance.
Scholarships	Like grants, scholarships are a form of financial aid that doesn’t need to be repaid. Unlike grants, they are most often merit-based (academic achievement, volunteer

	work, etc.).
Student Aid Report (SAR)	The SAR is the notice sent to you after completing the FAFSA. Unlike an award letter, it doesn't list the aid you're eligible for. It is simply a copy of your processed FAFSA that now includes your official EFC.
Tuition	Tuition is the money charged for class instruction only. It's either charged on a per-credit basis, or a flat fee. It doesn't include room and board, textbooks, supplies, or other fees.
Tuition reimbursement	Tuition reimbursement (or tuition assistance) is when a company refunds some or all of the cost of tuition for employees studying in a work-related area.
Work-study	A work study (or work award) is a form of federal financial aid in which students are given tuition funds in exchange for part-time employment.

Scholarships versus Grants

Grants are similar to scholarships in that they are gift money for college that doesn't need to be repaid. The main difference between the two is that the grants are sponsored by the government rather than private organizations.

There are currently four types of federal grants available:

Federal Pell Grants	<p>Awarded to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. The maximum award is \$5,775 and is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial need • tuition cost • enrollment status • length of attendance <p>Note: You cannot receive Pell Grants from more than one school at a time, or for more than 12 semesters.</p>
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)	Campus-based grant administered by the financial aid office. Not all schools participate. Award amounts range from \$100 to \$4,000 a year, based on financial need and availability of funds.
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grants	<p>Provides up to \$4,000 a year to completing coursework for a teaching degree. The program requires that specific teaching-related courses be taken. You must also agree to teach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in a high-need field • at a school that serves students from low-income families • for at least four complete academic years within eight years after graduation

	If the requirements aren't met, the grant turns into a loan and must be repaid with interest.
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants	<p>Rewarded to students whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of military service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11 and who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant on the basis of your Expected Family Contribution but meet the remaining Federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements • were under 24 years old or enrolled in college at least part-time at the time of the death. <p>The award amount is equal to the amount of a maximum Federal Pell Grant.</p>

Your search for college funding should include grants as well as scholarships, especially considering that there are no extra steps involved to find them. Grant eligibility is determined based on the information you provide in the FAFSA.

You can find all of the information you need at the official FAFSA website.

Types of Scholarships

There are two main types of scholarships:

School-sponsored: School sponsored scholarships are affiliated with a specific institution. They can either be funded by the school or an outside organization, but they are only available to students attending that particular college. Information and applications can typically be obtained through the school's financial aid office.

External: External scholarships are sponsored by outside donors, businesses, organizations, foundations, etc. They're not affiliated with a specific institution and can be used at any school of the recipient's choosing.

From there, scholarships fall into a few broad categories:

- **Need-based:** These scholarships are awarded based on demonstrated financial need. Many need-based scholarships are school-sponsored and funded directly by the college. Their eligibility and awards are based on the financial information submitted to them through the FAFSA.
- **Merit-based:** Rather than taking into account financial need, these scholarships are awarded based on individual achievement: academic, artistic, philanthropic, etc.
- **Demographic:** A large number of scholarships are set up for students that fit a specific demographic such as race, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, or residents a specific geographical region.

- **Major/Career:** Many colleges and organizations sponsor scholarships for students who major in a specific subject area or who are training for a specific career.
- **Athletic:** These scholarships are awarded to students based on their performance in a particular sport. There are external organizations that award athletic scholarships, but the majority are sponsored by the school itself.