

## ***Alumni Blog- August 2021***

### ***Yes! You Can (and Should) Still Apply for Scholarships While in College***

Applying for scholarships shouldn't stop when you get into college. In fact, that's the perfect time to apply and prepare for the coming years. A scholarship or two might help pay down any student debt you may have.

#### **Can I Still Apply for Scholarships While in College?**

Yes! Absolutely! As long as you meet the eligibility requirements for a scholarship, you can apply for it. You may just have to get creative with your searches.

The ideal scholarship for any college student is a renewable scholarship. This is an award that can be renewed each year of continued education. The renewal amount may not be as large as the first-year amount, but it is still useful. Each scholarship has its own requirements for renewal eligibility. You may have to take certain courses, maintain a certain GPA, do community service, etc.

#### **How Do You Apply for Scholarships for Current College Students?**

You must first search for scholarships that you may qualify for. Then gather all of the necessary information and documents that the application asks for. However, be aware of scams. If it asks you to pay a fee or ask for personal information like your bank account numbers or social security number, this is not a real scholarship.

##### **Here are some tips to remember:**

Getting more college scholarship money might affect any other student aid you receive.

You can't receive more in financial aid than the cost of attendance at your school. You'll likely need to let your financial aid department know so that they can adjust your aid.

Fill out the FAFSA every year. It takes into account any changes to your family's finances and financial need.

If you have any current scholarships that are renewable, make sure to abide by the terms. Keep track of deadlines in case you have to renew.

Even small awards and stipends may help. They will help cover the costs of books, fees, meals, travel, etc.

You should be looking and applying all year. Many scholarship deadlines are in January or June, but they could be at any time. The best way to do this is to set a weekly application goal for yourself. Apply for 3 scholarships a week for every week that you are in school. Perhaps apply for 5 scholarships per week in the summer. Spreading out the application will you feel less overwhelmed.

## What Kinds of Scholarships Can You Get for College?

As a student, you may be in a perfect position to apply for awards. You might already have an idea of what you want to study or major in. Your extracurricular activities could even help you.

There are also fun and weird scholarships to apply for. If you a zombie fan, you can apply for a [Zombie Apocalypse](#) award. In a short essay, describe your plan to avoid the zombies, including where you would hide the top five things you would bring to stay alive.

**Scholarships by Major-** There are many scholarships for college students who major in a specific field of study. Education, business, healthcare, and STEM are common college majors. Use these interests to search for scholarships by your major. One example is this [Caroline E. Holt Nursing School Scholarship](#).

**Scholarships for Transfer Students-** Transferring from a community college? There are scholarships for you! These may ease the financial pressure of completing a bachelor's degree. One example is the [Teachers of Accounting at Two Year College Scholarship](#). They award multiple scholarships of \$1,000 each.

**Scholarships for Minority Students-** There are scholarships for college students who identify as African American or Hispanic. You may also find awards for Native American, women, LGBTQ, and Asians. One example is this [AMS Minority Scholarship](#) worth \$6,000.

**Merit Scholarships-** Are you doing well in your classes? Your university may reward high achievers. The [Barry Goldwater Scholarship](#) is an example. This scholarship identifies and supports college sophomores and juniors. Eligible applicants must show exceptional promise in natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

**Scholarships for Students with a Cause-** Many students go to college and pick up interests. This might include advocating for a specific cause. If this is you, look for scholarships associated with the things that you are enthusiastic about. One example is this [Helpful Hands Scholarship](#).

## Where Do You Find These Scholarships?

If you've actually tried looking for scholarships, you know that finding the right ones can feel like looking for a needle in a haystack. There are over 5 million scholarships available to sift through for students. With the right search tools, you can quickly narrow in on the scholarships that are the best fit and that you have the highest chance of winning.

### 10 Best College Scholarship Search Websites According to College Investor

1. **Bold.org** is one of the newest college scholarship search websites, and they are changing the game. One of the features of their marketplace is that they allow anyone to create a scholarship. With the bigger search websites, this is restricted to high paying companies- so they don't have as many smaller or niche scholarships. It has a great selection of scholarships, but their application process is a bit longer to register. But that registration process is well worth it to connect to a lot of scholarships easily.



2. **Fastweb.com** has been around since 1996 and has established itself as one of the most advanced college search websites available today. Using Fastweb, you can search for scholarships based on your area of study, strengths, skills and interests.



3. **Collegeboard** is well-known for their college search and college prep programs. But they also offer a robust scholarship search engine. The number of schools that Collegeboard can search is one of the highest you will find. For 2021, it has financial aid and internships from over 2,200 programs, worth nearly 6 billion of FREE college money.



4. **Scholarships.com** provides access up to \$19 billion worth of scholarships and grants in their database, ready for you to search and use towards your college education. When you create an account with them, you are entered into a drawing to win a \$500 scholarship. In order to use their search engine, you'll need to create a free account on their website.



5. **Peterson's** first came online in 1997 and their print version for college search has been around longer than that. It has one of the strongest resources for grad students. The search tool on the website also allows you to look for grants, prizes, fellowships and forgivable loans.



6. **Scholly** is a student success app that gained a lot of popularity on the TV show Shark Tank. They can help you with math problems and they even have a built in editing and proofreading tool that helps students write better. You can also find and apply for scholarships on Scholly, although it will cost you \$44.99 per year. According to Scholly, they provide access to little-known scholarships which gives you an edge since not as many people are applying for them. For an app that costs less than \$5 per month, it could be well worth it if it helps you win even one \$1,000.



7. **ScholarshipOwl** is a freemium service. Users can access the scholarship matches at no cost to them. However, if you want certain features, you'll need to upgrade to the premium service. One reason this service is awesome is that students can access premium service that helps them apply, tailor their essays, and even hire a proofreader to make sure things look good.



8. **Unigo** is yet another powerful scholarship search engine that gives you access through 3.6 million scholarships and grants. They also offer a \$10,000 scholarship where you submit a 250- word essay answering questions like, "Imagine a historical figure is brought back to life. Who is it? What's their favorite app?"



9. **Niche.com** has scholarship for college and grad students. Once you create an account on Niche, you will be entered to win a \$2,000 "no essay" scholarship. After completing your profile, you can quickly begin to sort through the scholarships that it labels as "Your Matches". Or you can filter by a variety of unique criteria, including "Easy to Apply", "Popular", "Niche Scholarships", and "New Scholarships".



10. With **CollegeScholarships.com** you don't need to create an account or fill out long forms to start using their resources. Instead, you can immediately begin searching for the right scholarship opportunities and working through the application process.



Scholarships for current college students are more important than ever. The coronavirus continues to affect students and their families. Scholarship programs may bridge the gap between your savings and graduating debt free. Other benefits include networking and internships. Programs also offer mentoring and job shadowing. Always apply for as many scholarships that you may qualify for. It's an investment to turn your higher education dreams into reality. That's why it's never too early or too late to apply and receive financial assistance. You'll never know what you may win unless you try!