



Maximize Your College Funding Opportunities by Understanding the Financial Aid Process: Scholarships

Facilitated By
Cultivate Academics

Agenda

- Corporate Scholarship Clearinghouses
- Institutional Scholarships
 - Merit & Holistic
- Community Based Organizations
- Opportunities for Underserved Students
- Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Scholarship Clearinghouses: Most Reputable

- Search lists of millions of scholarships by choosing a category or get matched to college scholarships you are eligible for.
- [Fastweb](#), [FinAid](#), [The College Board](#), [Appily](#), [Peterson's](#), [Scholarships.com](#), [Unigo](#), [Going Merry](#), [Niche](#), [Sallie Mae](#), [Scholarship Owl](#), [Scholarships360](#), [RaiseMe](#)



UNIGOTM
Go. Find. You.

The logo for Unigo features the word "UNIGO" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is stylized with a red-to-white gradient and a shadow effect. Below the main text, the tagline "Go. Find. You." is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

 **RaiseMe**

The logo for RaiseMe consists of a blue icon on the left, which is a stylized shape resembling a person or a letter 'R' composed of two overlapping semi-circles. To the right of the icon, the word "RaiseMe" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

- [Create a Profile](#)
- The more information you fill out, the more specific scholarships you'll be matched with

Tell us how you've done so far and we'll help match you to a program where you'll excel.

*What's your GPA? If you've graduated, enter your final GPA.

SAT TOTAL/COMBINED
*What is the student's highest composite SAT score(math and verbal combined)?

ACT
What is the student's highest Composite ACT score?

HOBBIES/ACTIVITIES
Choose all of the following hobbies and activities that the student participates in on a regular basis.

PAGE 3 OF 5
Complete each section to help increase your scholarship total. Click on a section to jump to its question set.

- BASICS 9/12
- SCHOOLS 7/8
- ACTIVITIES 3/8**
- BACKGROUND 0/0
- DEMOGRAPHICS 0/0

SCHOLARSHIPS FOUND:

SCHOLARSHIPS FOUND:
250

Scholarship Websites Should Not...

- Charge a Fee
- Request Unusual Information
- Ask for Your Bank Account Number
- Award a Scholarship You Did Not Apply For
- Send a Scholarship Check
- Offer Guarantees
- Claim Exclusive Access or High Success Rates
- Have an Unprofessional Appearance

Institutional Scholarships

- An institutional scholarship is a type of scholarship that comes directly from an individual college or university. Instead of scholarships that come from organizations that you can use at any campus you want to attend, you must use these scholarships at the college that offers them.
- You can search for scholarships at each school's [website](#)

Ex: UNR, Merit Scholarships

UNWEIGHTED HIGH SCHOOL GPA | ACT COMPOSITE OR SAT (SINGLE EXAM SITTING)

	ACT SAT	36 1570	35 1530	34 1490	33 1450	32 1420	31 1390	30 1360	29 1330	28 1300	27 1260	26 1230	25 1200	24 1160	23 1130	22 1100
UNWEIGHTED CUMULATIVE GPA	4.0	PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL \$8,000 per year for four years of undergraduate study.					NEVADA SCHOLARS LEVEL \$3,000 Not available to WUE and PEP recipients.									
	3.9															
	3.8															
	3.7															
	3.6															
	3.5						PACK PRIDE LEVEL \$2,000 Not available to WUE and PEP recipients.									
	3.4															
	3.3															
3.2																

Ex: Miami University (Ohio), Merit Scholarships

First-Year Students: Merit Scholarships for Fall 2025

WEIGHTED HIGH SCHOOL GPA ¹	OHIO RESIDENT (ANNUAL AMOUNT) ²	NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL AMOUNT) ²
4.30+	Starting at \$4,000	Starting at \$15,000
3.95-4.29	Starting at \$3,000	Starting at \$10,000
3.75-3.94	Starting at \$2,000	Starting at \$6,000
3.50-3.74	Starting at \$1,000	Starting at \$4,000

Ex: Univ. of Southern California (USC), holistic scholarships



Scholarships (For academic year 2024-2025)



SCHOLARSHIP	ANNUAL AMOUNT	OPEN TO	ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA	APPLICATION PROCESS	NOTIFICATION
Trustee Presidential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full tuition (approx. \$66,640) • Approx. 100 awards • Half tuition (approx. \$33,320) • Approx. 200 awards 	First-year students	<p>Candidates are selected by USC faculty and staff from an extremely competitive national pool. Applicants pursue the most demanding curriculum and achieve at the highest level.</p> <p>Competitive applicants will be at the top of the applicant pool with respect to academic achievement. In addition to academic criteria, candidates' talent, perseverance, innovation, involvement and leadership are considered.</p>	<p>Submit a completed Common Application with required materials by the Early Action deadline of November 1. For majors requiring a portfolio or audition, apply by the December 1 Regular Decision deadline.</p> <p>By mid-February, the Office of Undergraduate Admission will notify candidates chosen to move forward in the scholarship process about their next steps.</p>	By April 1, 2024
National Merit Finalist Presidential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half tuition (approx. \$33,320) • Number of awards varies 	First-year students	Selected on the basis of PSAT performance. Entering first-year students are considered if they have been designated National Merit Finalists and name USC as their first-choice college with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation by May 31.	Students will be contacted by the sponsoring agency.	After student selects USC as their first choice with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation
International Freshman Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount varies • Number of awards varies 	First-year students	Competitive applicants will be at the top of the applicant pool with respect to academic achievement. In addition to academic criteria, candidates' talent, perseverance, innovation, involvement and leadership are considered. Applicants must be international students. At USC, an international student is an individual of foreign nationality who will be entering, or has already entered, the United States with a student visa.	Submit a completed Common Application along with all supporting documents, including proof of financial support. No additional application is required. Applications must be submitted by the Early Action deadline of November 1. For majors requiring a portfolio or audition, apply by the December 1 Regular Decision deadline.	By April 1, 2024

Ex: Vanderbilt University, holistic scholarships

LEARN MORE ABOUT VANDERBILT'S THREE SIGNATURE SCHOLARSHIP:



- ◉ Ingram Scholars – students who plan to combine a professional or business career with an exceptional commitment to civic-minded service, innovation, an entrepreneurial spirit, and leadership. The program supports students who are committed to developing their personal roles in the solution to societal problems and who have the maturity and initiative to lead positive social change.
- ◉ Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholars – students who combine outstanding academic achievement with strong leadership and contributions outside the classroom.
- ◉ Chancellor's Scholars – students with outstanding high school records who have worked to build strong high school communities by bridging gaps among economically, socially, and racially diverse groups and who have demonstrated significant interest in issues of diversity education, tolerance, and social justice.

Millennium Scholarship Requirements

- To receive the benefits of the [Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship \(GGMS\)](#), students must enroll in an eligible institution of higher education in Nevada and meet the following requirements
 - Graduate with a Nevada high school diploma
 - Earn at least a 3.25 GPA (weighted or unweighted) or a qualifying test score of 1070 on the SAT or 21 on the ACT.
 - ACT superscores are not accepted. Only composite scores from a single test date will be considered.
 - Complete the following core curriculum: 4 units in English, 4 units in Math (including Algebra II or higher), 3 units in Science, 3 units in Social Science or History

Other Resources

- Student or Family member employment
 - Smith's, firefighters, police, casinos, etc.
 - Many offer scholarships to non-employees for example the [Henderson Firefighters Benevolent Association Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [National Society of High School Scholars](#) & other honor societies
- Chamber of Commerce(s)
 - [Asian, Urban Chamber of Commerce](#), etc.
- Benevolent Societies
 - Lion's Club, Kiwanis Club
- [Public Education Foundation \(PEF\)](#)
- Community Based Organizations
 - Ex: [Coca-Cola](#), [Jack Kent Cooke](#), [AXA Achievement](#), [The Gates Scholarship](#), [Horatio Alger](#), [Chick Evans](#), [Kenny Guinn](#), [Jo Marshall](#), [Bruce Fishkin](#)

Programs for Underserved Students

Many of these GPA, Test Score, extra curricular involvement, intended major, ethnicity, socio-economic status, housing status, and/or first-generation status and are connected to unique scholarship opportunities.

- [Questbridge](#)
 - QuestBridge connects high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds with a thriving community and transformative educational, career, and life opportunities that help propel them to lives of fulfillment, meaning, and purpose.
- [Bridges Program](#) through Miami University in Ohio
- [College Greenlight](#)
 - The nation's largest community of professionals supporting and recruiting first-generation, lower-income, and historically underserved students

Western University Exchange

- The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is an agreement among WICHE's 16 member states and territories, through which [160+ participating public colleges](#) and universities provide steep nonresident tuition savings for Western students.
- Through WUE, eligible students can choose from hundreds of undergraduate programs outside their home state, and pay no more than 150% of that institution's resident tuition rate.
- To see if your student's GPA, Test Scores, and intended major qualify for WUE tuition, check the [WUE Savings Finder](#) online.

WICHE



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

How to Write a Financial Need Letter

- Short Essay (150-300 words)
- Items to Include:
 - If you belong to an underrepresented group at college, such as being part of an ethnic minority or the first in your family to attend college.
 - Any relevant family circumstances, such as having parents who are immigrants or refugees, your parents' occupations, and the number of family members they support financially
 - How you are currently funding your college education, including any personal contributions like working student jobs
 - Any financial challenges your family is facing, such as a parent recently losing their job
 - How the scholarship would benefit you, including your academic and career goals (if word count permits).

Sample Financial Need Letter

To the scholarship committee,

I need financial assistance to attend college as a high school student from a low-income family. Despite my parents' support, their limited income means I receive minimal financial aid. To lessen their burden, I have been working part-time while maintaining my studies. However, with the rising costs of college tuition, my financial challenges have increased. As a future Biology major aspiring to become a physician, I want to dedicate more time to my studies, which are crucial for my future career. Unfortunately, financial strain may reduce my ability to fully engage with my coursework and extracurricular activities. Therefore, I would deeply appreciate financial support to help me pursue my college education.

Receiving this scholarship would significantly impact my studies at XYZ University. It would allow me to work fewer hours and focus more on my education. Additionally, the scholarship would enable me to participate in community service projects and explore my potential in helping others. It would also provide opportunities to attend academic conferences and stay updated on the latest advancements in the field of medicine. Ultimately, this scholarship would motivate me to achieve academic excellence and succeed in my goal of becoming a physician.

Sincerely,



What questions do you have?