



TRiO Hot Topic – Scholarships

Scholarships are what we call “free money” because they don’t have to be paid back! That’s why it is wise to find and apply for as many scholarships as you can. There is no limit to how many you can apply for or receive, and there are literally thousands of scholarships out there!

Some scholarships are merit-based, which means you have to meet some type of requirement for eligibility like good grades, high SAT or ACT scores, athletic ability, or special talents, traits or interests. Other scholarships are based on financial need. Scholarships can cover the entire cost of tuition or be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars.

Students are encouraged to start researching scholarships during the summer between their junior and senior years. However, it’s not a bad idea to start even sooner than that because there are some scholarships that require submissions a year prior to starting college. Parents can even begin to encourage younger children by checking out the article “12 Simple Ways to Prepare a Student to Win College Scholarships” (<https://www.savingforcollege.com/articles-scholarships/12-simple-ways-to-prepare-a-student-to-win-college-scholarships-977?page=1>).

You can learn more about scholarships by contacting the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend, visiting some of the websites listed below, or checking out books at your local library.

References & Resources

studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships

www.edmit.me/financial-aid-scholarships

www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships

www.savingforcollege.com/scholarships/

www.fastweb.com

www.scholarsnapp.org

pages.collegeboard.org/scholarship-opportunities-from-collegeboard