

# OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

1. Fill out the FASFA. Even if you don't get PELL Grants, many scholarships require that you fill it out.
2. Start general, then go specific.
  - a. For instance, scholarships open to any field of study and any level (high school senior, undergrad, graduate study) are going to have more applicants and be easier to find
  - b. Some scholarships are only for those attending certain schools, studying certain subjects, or with specific career goals. These will have fewer qualified applicants.
  - c. Examples of unusual scholarships:
    - i. For promoting vegetarianism [vrg.org/student/scholar.htm](http://vrg.org/student/scholar.htm)
    - ii. For advocating for the beef industry [ancw.org/cbap](http://ancw.org/cbap)
    - iii. For knowing Oklahoma history [oklahomahof.com/scholarships](http://oklahomahof.com/scholarships)
    - iv. For playing Magic the Gathering [gamershelpinggamers.org/content/home](http://gamershelpinggamers.org/content/home)
    - v. For being/having been a golf caddie [wgaesf.org/a-life-changing-opportunity](http://wgaesf.org/a-life-changing-opportunity)
    - vi. For applying for a lot of scholarships [debt.com/our-story/scholarships](http://debt.com/our-story/scholarships)
    - vii. For being exceptionally tall [tallclubfoundation.org/scholarship-program.html](http://tallclubfoundation.org/scholarship-program.html)
3. Use scholarship databases, not just Google!
  - a. The US Department of Labor maintains a database that lets you filter by all kinds of categories. This will help you find some of the ones most applicable to your situation. [careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx](http://careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx)
  - b. Fastweb will allow you to create a student profile and suggest scholarships that match you.
  - c. Scholarships.com has over 3.7 million scholarships and grants.
4. Check your school/departments' website. Often these won't be in a database because they are only open to your school or department. These deadlines for current students are often right after winter break.
5. Apply as early as you can to make sure you meet the deadline. A lot of students will start and never complete scholarship applications, which will result in automatic rejection.
6. Review application requirements and be sure to follow all application rules on how to submit, what font, etc.
7. The higher the dollar amount, the more applicants, the more competitive. Keep that in mind when you see lower dollar amounts, and that having a lot of smaller scholarships can add up.
8. Scholarships, grants, and fellowships may also allow you to study abroad, attend conferences, or conduct research. You can jumpstart a career and make connections in a field if you use these funding sources for conferences and research, even if your goal is not academia.
9. Use all your resources! Talk to your Citizen Potawatomi Nation college advisor, school counselor, or professors about potential opportunities. Our office can also help you with application essays or connecting you to resources.
10. APPLY! Some organizations have trouble finding applicants and may have some wiggle room on their qualifications. You may miss out on an excellent opportunity just by not applying for it.

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