

# College Prep & Scholarship Tips

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- **Research scholarships:**  
Do an online search with specific details, i.e., “Scholarships for Hispanics + Science.”
- **Contact colleges, universities & schools:**  
Call the colleges, universities or vocational schools you are interested in, to find out what kind of scholarships are available for incoming students, transfer students, adult learners, etc.
- **Contact other places with scholarships:**  
Find scholarships available to the public. For example, research what scholarships are offered by a major retail store, cell phone company, automobile company, restaurant, or insurance company. Talk to your local community members, churches, etc. In many cases, they receive very few applications.
- **Get an extra hand:**  
Ask your high school counselors for support and resources to find and apply for scholarships. They are there to help you.
- **Write “Thank You” letters:**  
Write “Thank you” letters to anyone who helped you along the way and everyone who gave you a scholarship. These letters can help you establish a stronger connection to organizations that offer scholarships.

- **Include everything the scholarship asks for:**  
Some scholarships will request more documents than others. Make sure you send everything that is required. Incomplete scholarship applications are a huge reason students miss out on funds available to them.
- **Create a scholarship hit list:**  
Plan to send one scholarship application per week! So by the end of the year, you'll have dozens and dozens. Recycle essays, edit and tailor them for each scholarship application to save time and energy.
- **Create a team to apply together:**  
This whole process of looking for a scholarship can be daunting, but together with friends, you can make it fun and productive. The group can hold each member accountable and encourage each other to apply for multiple scholarships, giving you all an edge.
- **Proofread everything:**  
Please get EVERY single thing proofread multiple times. Some scholarship reviewers pass on applications that have multiple grammatical errors.
- **Do NOT miss deadlines:**  
This is a costly mistake students make. Don't leave everything for the last minute.
- **Do NOT use your cell phone:**  
It goes without saying, using a computer when applying makes it way easier for you.

Good Luck!