



'One of the biggest myths about scholarships is that they are available only to the best and brightest'





## Our goals ...

- Get to know where the resources are in your high school.
- Talk about types of scholarships, scholarship applications, deadlines and how to search and apply.
- Talk about the advantages of applying to Maryland colleges, career schools and universities.



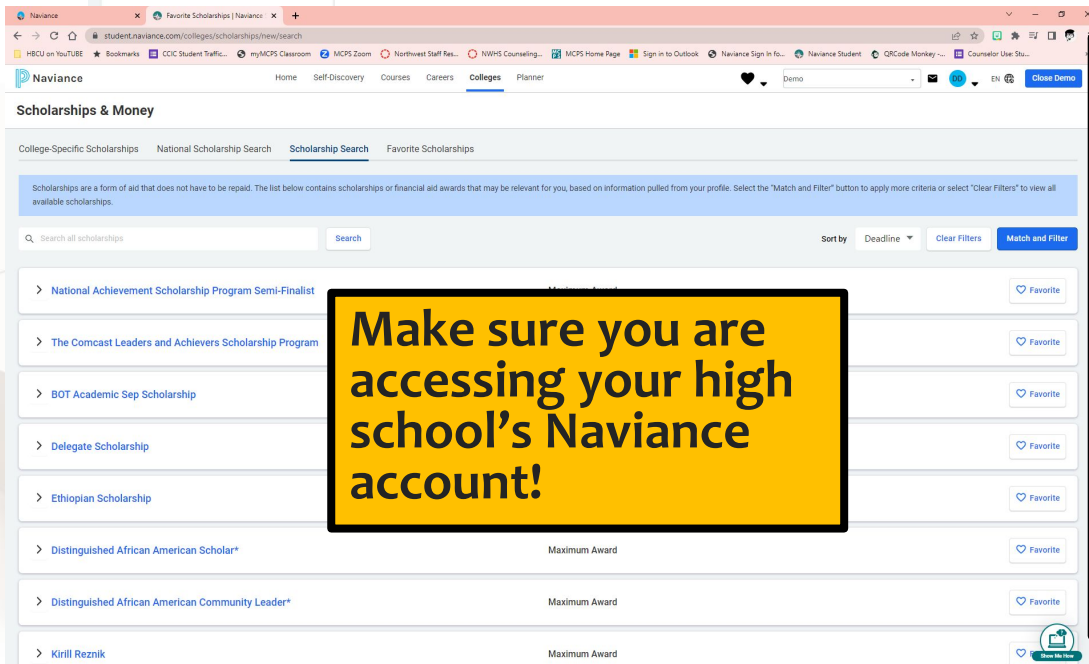
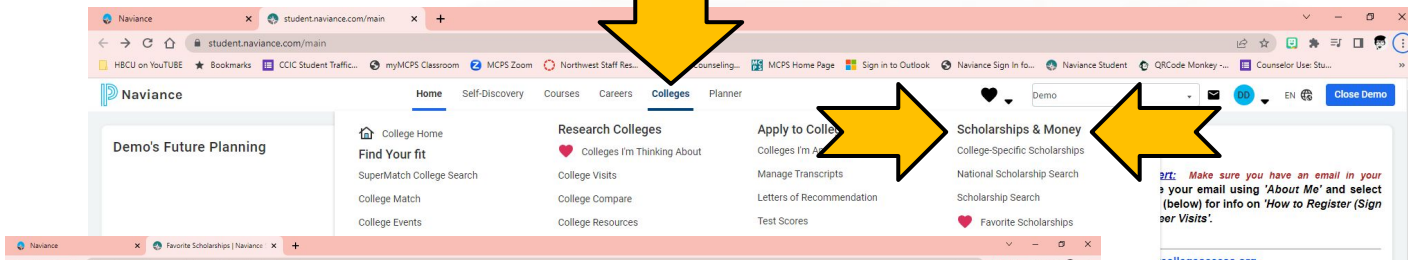
# Starting the scholarship search...

## Start small...

Search where the percentages are in your favor. Begin with your high school resources. Where is your College Career Information Center? Add the College Career school webpage as a favorite on your Internet toolbar.



# Naviance & the SCHOLARSHIP search ...



**Search College-Specific Scholarships.**

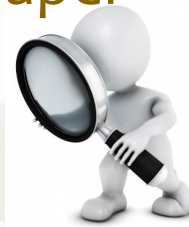
**Create a profile and complete a National Scholarship Search. Select Scholarship**

**Search for a list of Scholarships to Favorite.**



# Scholarships: Types & Application

Athletic, Academic, State & Local, Online & Paper



**Athletic scholarships** eligibility requires NCAA Clearinghouse Registration. Talk to your coaches and visit [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org). Registration should take place in junior year!

**Academic scholarships** can be offered by private organizations as well as colleges. Eligibility can be based on GPA and/or college test scores, leadership and/or community service.

**State & Local scholarships** can be offered by your home state, senators, delegates, county and/or your high school.

Know your state legislative district by visiting [mdelect.net](http://mdelect.net)

Application can be online or hard copy paper.

Students can also be nominated for scholarships either by self-nomination or school nomination.

**Make sure your counselor gets to know you!**



# Search college financial aid offices...

- **Search the financial aid web pages on college websites where you plan to apply.** Look for scholarships tied to your major or place of residence. Check the department page on the college website if you have a predetermined major.
- **Connect with the financial aid offices at colleges you are considering by phone and/or email.**
  - Always be courteous – no matter what the outcome of the conversation – make sure you note the name and date of each chat! Save your email communications.
- **Be mindful of priority deadlines!** For instance, UMD College Park accepts applications by Priority and Regular decision deadlines...

**but gives “best consideration” for merit scholarships to those students applying by the Priority, November 1 deadline.**





# Cast a wider net...

- **Look at businesses and organizations where your family has a connection.**
- **Visit the web sites of your local credit union or banking institution.**
- **Visit the web sites of your state senators and delegates.**  
Maryland residents may qualify for merit or career based scholarships if they plan to attend a Maryland post-secondary institution. Each senator and/or delegate may have their own application process.
- **Check out a good book** – “The Ultimate Scholarship Guide”, “Free \$ for College Dummies Handbook” and/or “The Scholarship Handbook” are available in your
  - in your local bookstores and on Amazon...



## Scholarship search tip...

*When searching for scholarships don't make assumptions based on the scholarship funder or organization name!*

For instance, **Blacks in Government** and the **Taiwanese Community** offer scholarships to high school seniors regardless of ethnicity.

The **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority** offers some of their scholarships to seniors regardless of gender!

*Look at the criteria before deciding to apply!*





# The online scholarship search...

Play the odds! They could be in your favor!

- **Plan to dedicate time to your searches.** Don't expect the site to do the work for you.
- **Beware of scam websites.** Sites should not ask for fees for searching or applying for scholarships – scholarships are a free resource for your college or career school education. Do not provide your social security number when registering on a web site.

## Reputable sites include:

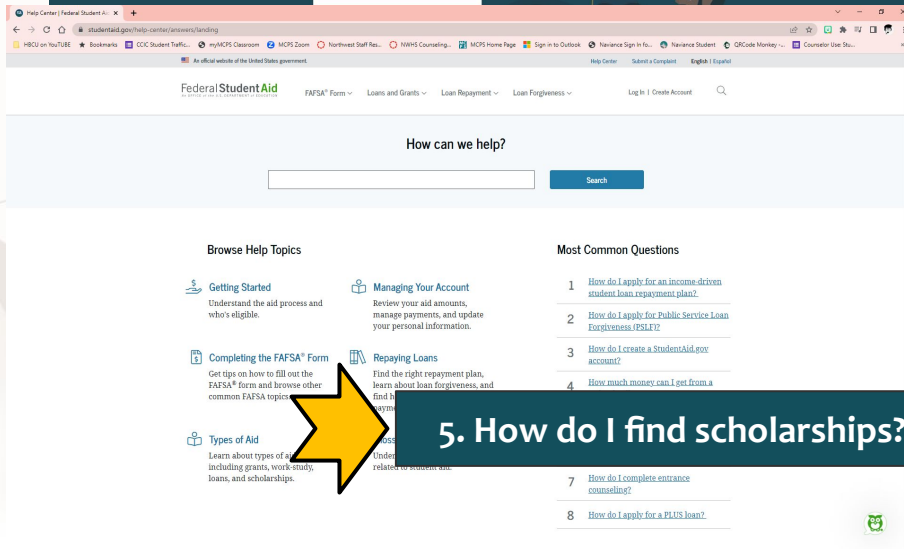
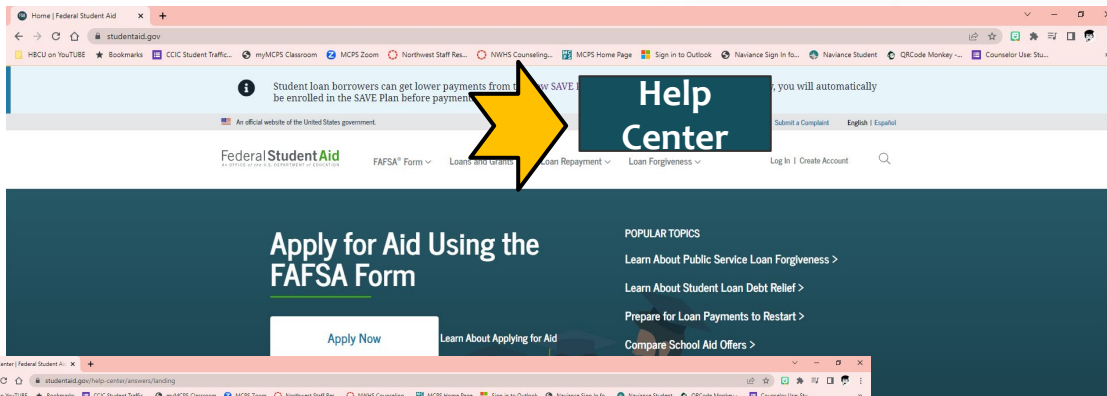
[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) → *Help Center* → *How do I find scholarships*

[www.scholarshipamerica.org](http://www.scholarshipamerica.org)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)



# StudentAid.gov scholarship search...



## How do I find scholarships?

GETTING STARTED   TYPES OF AID

You can learn about scholarships in several ways, including contacting the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend and checking information in a public library or online. But be careful. Make sure scholarship information and offers you receive are legitimate; and remember that you don't have to pay to find scholarships or other financial aid. Check out our information on how to avoid scams.

Try these free sources of information about scholarships:

- the financial aid office at a college or university
- a high school counselor
- the U.S. Department of Labor's [FREE scholarship search tool](#)
- federal agencies
- your state government
- your library
- foundations
- groups
- organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
- ethnicity-based organizations
- your employer or your parents' employers
- our article on scholarship tips
- our article on what to do if you need additional financial aid

**US Dept. of Labor's FREE scholarship search tool**

# StudentAid.gov link takes you here...

The screenshot shows the CareerOneStop website's Scholarship Finder page. The page header includes the CareerOneStop logo and navigation links. The main content area features a search bar with the text "Search by keyword" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there are filter options for "Level of Study" and "Award Type". The search results are displayed in a table with columns for "Award Name", "Level of Study", "Award Type", "Award Amount", and "Deadline".

**Search Results:**

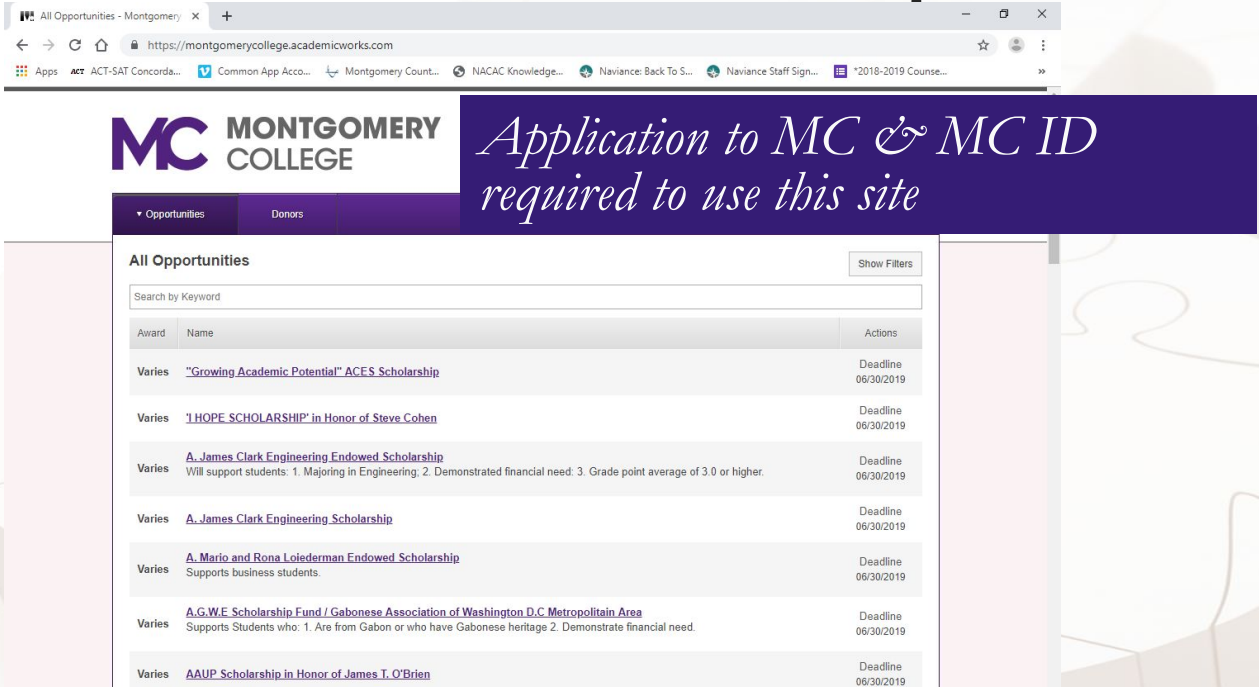
Award Name	Level of Study	Award Type	Award Amount	Deadline
<b>A Better World - Spirituality and Technology Advancement Scholarship</b> Organization: ChinaSona Foundation Purposes: To promote a better world through spiritual and technological advancements.	Bachelor's Degree Graduate Degree	Scholarship	\$1,000	July
<b>A Creative Life Scholarship</b> Organization: LRV Purposes: This scholarship is for all students and graduates who want to get the most out of life. Designing a fulfilling and balanced life is easier said than done. It takes a tremendous amount of creativity and courage to find a path that genuinely works for you. This scholarship exists to support people from all walks of life on their journey of living life to the fullest. Learn how to apply at: <a href="https://calvinrosser.com/scholarships/creative/">https://calvinrosser.com/scholarships/creative/</a>	Associate Degree Bachelor's Degree Graduate Degree High School Professional Development Vocational	Grant Prize Scholarship	\$1,000	July
<b>A Sharpen No Essay Scholarship</b> Organization: Sharpen by McGraw Hill Purposes: Sharpen is all about making the college journey easier, that is why we are offering a monthly no stress, no essay \$2,000 cash scholarship to help a lucky student through their semester. <small>Sharpen is designed to help college students are their</small>	Bachelor's Degree High School	Prize Scholarship	\$2,000	July

Some search engines may require you to set up a free profile that will be used to match scholarships with your interests and postsecondary plans

... on the web @ [careeronestop](https://www.careeronestop.org)



# Students planning to attend MC can search their Academic Works scholarship database...



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://montgomerycollege.academicworks.com>. The page features the Montgomery College logo and a navigation menu with 'Opportunities' and 'Donors' tabs. A purple banner at the top of the content area reads 'Application to MC & MC ID required to use this site'. Below this is a section titled 'All Opportunities' with a search bar and a 'Show Filters' button. A table lists several scholarships with their names, details, and deadlines.


Award	Name	Actions
Varies	"Growing Academic Potential" ACES Scholarship	Deadline 06/30/2019
Varies	"HOPE SCHOLARSHIP" in Honor of Steve Cohen	Deadline 06/30/2019
Varies	A. James Clark Engineering Endowed Scholarship Will support students: 1. Majoring in Engineering; 2. Demonstrated financial need; 3. Grade point average of 3.0 or higher.	Deadline 06/30/2019
Varies	A. James Clark Engineering Scholarship	Deadline 06/30/2019
Varies	A. Mario and Rona Loisdeman Endowed Scholarship Supports business students.	Deadline 06/30/2019
Varies	A.G.W.F Scholarship Fund / Gabonese Association of Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Supports Students who: 1. Are from Gabon or who have Gabonese heritage 2. Demonstrate financial need.	Deadline 06/30/2019
Varies	AAUP Scholarship in Honor of James T. O'Brien	Deadline 06/30/2019

*Apply to MC early in senior year and take advantage of the MC App Fee Waiver Period, that usually begins Oct. 1*

Paying for college @ MC  
**Academic Works @ [montgomerycollege.academicworks.com](https://montgomerycollege.academicworks.com)**

# Online... MCPS College Career

The screenshot shows the 'STUDENTS' page of the Montgomery County Public Schools website. The page features a navigation menu with 'Full Menu', 'Home', 'About Us', 'Schools', 'Parents', 'Students', 'Curriculum', 'Staff', 'Board Of Education', 'Superintendent', and 'Careers'. A search bar is located at the top right. The main content area is titled 'STUDENTS' and includes three buttons: 'LUNCH MENU', 'FORMS FOR STUDENTS', and 'BUS ROUTES'. Below this is a horizontal navigation bar with 'HOMEWORK HELP', 'MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS', 'COLLEGE AND CAREER', and 'STUDENT LIFE'. A yellow arrow points to the 'STUDENTS' title, another points to the 'COLLEGE AND CAREER' link, and a third points to the 'HOMEWORK HELP' link. The 'HOMEWORK HELP' link is expanded to show a 'Resources' section with the text 'HOMEWORK HELP' and three icons: a calculator, a graduation cap, and a book.

  
**Financial Aid**

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Financial Aid Workshops
- Scholarships
- Minority Student Scholarships

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/students>

# The scholarship application...

... the transcript

and what may be required?

*Official or unofficial?*

Local ED: [redacted] MD State ED: [redacted] Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland  
Secondary Transcript

DOB: [redacted] Gender: F Grade: 12 Date as of: 3/8/2010

Grade 6				Grade 7				Grade 8						
CR	CR	N/C	WD	School	CR	CR	N/C	WD	School	CR	CR	N/C	WD	School
A	0.50			Montgomery	A	0.50			Montgomery	A	0.50			Montgomery
B	0.30			Montgomery	A	0.50			Montgomery	A	0.50			Montgomery

Grade 9				Grade 10				Grade 11						
CR	CR	N/C	WD	School	CR	CR	N/C	WD	School	CR	CR	N/C	WD	School
A	0.50			Montgomery	A	0.50			Montgomery	A	0.50			Montgomery
B	0.30			Montgomery	A	0.50			Montgomery	A	0.50			Montgomery

Grade 12				
CR	CR	N/C	WD	School
A	0.50			Montgomery
B	0.30			Montgomery

... letters of recommendation

Kara White  
123 Main Street, Anytown, CA 12345 - 555-555-5555 - kara.white@email.com

March 1, 20XX

XYZ College Admissions Committee  
123 Business Rd.  
Business City, NY 54321

*How many?*

Dear XYZ College Admissions Committee,

I have known Beth Crawley for the past two years, having served as both her English teacher and her supervisor on the ABC High School newspaper. I believe Beth would be an excellent addition to XYZ College.

While a student at ABC High School, Beth has always challenged herself academically. She is an active participant in class discussions and grasps material quickly. She has superb written and verbal skills that are a pleasure for any teacher to encounter. Beth even tutors incoming high school freshmen who are struggling with their English courses.

Beth also excels in extracurricular activities. She has served as the features editor of our high school newspaper, a role that has allowed her to develop strong leadership and communication skills. Beth would bring so much to your school, both inside and outside of the classroom. If you have any questions regarding Beth's qualifications, please feel free to contact me at (555) 555-5555 or Kara.White@email.com.

Sincerely,

Kara White  
English Teacher and Department Chair  
ABC High School

*(from FAFSA Student Aid Report)*



... college test scores *(copy from test account)*

... resume

... financial information

1001 Blaine Lane, Hunt  
Huntersville, NC 28046-5016-1688  
SCHOOL IS ACCREDITED BY MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
In the column labeled "C": ADV=Advanced Level  
HON=Honors CM=Chief of Mates  
TWO COURSE TAKEN: MS=Master's CM=Emerging DB=Distinction DB-C=Distinction

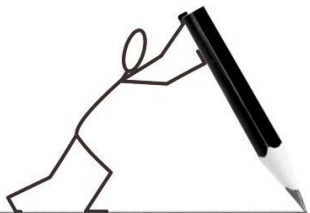
Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, E=0. Prior to 03-04, weighted GPA (WGPA) is calculated A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, E=1 for honors courses and A=4, B=3, C=2 for advanced Placement and advanced level courses. Beginning 03-04 school year, weighted GPA (WGPA) is calculated A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2 for all honors courses.



# The Scholarship Essay or Personal Statement ...

## Writing a Winning Scholarship Essay & the Four R's:

- **Rules** – due date – word count – format – residency – age – **follow the rules!**
- **Research** the web site and the essay topic
- **wRite** to grab the readers and make them want to know more!  
How do your goals and values **CONNECT** with the funder's goals and values?
- **Review** not once – not twice... submit your essay to an expert!  
Use your school resources like your English teacher or tutor



**Essay Tip: Keep copies (hard and electronic) of papers you have written in high school where you have received high grades.**



# Increase your chances...

- **Get personal with your essay.** Tell your story. “Personal stories provide unique ideas and a backdrop for scholarship committees to really get to know the applicants”.
- **Apply.** Dollars go unclaimed because of lack of applicants.
- **Disregard the dollar amount.** It all adds up!
- **Keep your grades high.**
- **Don't give up.** You may not get every scholarship you apply for but that does not mean you won't get something for your efforts. Take charge of your education and paying for it.
- **Do Not Google scholarship applications.** There should be a website link or a link on your high school website to access the application. Using Google may not get you the right application!
- **Keep track of your applications,** including the contact information, when you applied and how you applied.
- **Check email!!**





# Tips and tools if applying to MD schools: @ [mhec.maryland.gov](https://mhec.maryland.gov)

Maryland Higher Education Commission

Enter search term

HOME ABOUT MHEC Maryland State Plan for Higher Education Contact MHEC Staff

MHEC MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION  
STUDENT SUCCESS WITH LESS DEBT

Access and Success Through Innovation

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is the State's higher education regulatory and coordinating board, responsible for establishing statewide policies for Maryland public & private colleges and universities, as well as for the for-profit career schools. MHEC also administers more than \$100 million each year through financial aid programs that positively impact students as they work to achieve their higher education goals.

Need Money for College? Start Here!

MDCAPS  
MARYLAND COLLEGE AID  
PROCESSING SYSTEM

Going to College: Important Information for Parents and Students to Consider:

Our Students' Needs Come First: Prepare for Your College Experience:

- Scholarships & grants to attend a college in

After Graduation: Graduate School? Pay Off Student Loan Debt:

- Find a graduate school or degree

"Organization and persistence are key - there are no shortcuts"



Check your email!

*The End*