

Scholarship Application Tips

Start Researching Early – The more time you can put into a scholarship search, the more options you will find.

Read Eligibility Requirements Carefully – If you have a question about eligibility for a particular scholarship, contact the scholarship sponsors.

Organize All Scholarship Materials – You should create a separate file for each scholarship and file by application date. Keep a calendar of application deadlines and follow-up appointments.

Proofread Applications Carefully – Don't rely solely on the spell check function of your computer.

Don't Leave Items Blank – You should contact scholarship sponsors if you are not sure how to fill out any part of the application.

Follow Instructions to the Letter – Make sure you do not go over the length limit for the essay.

Make Sure the Application is Legible – You should type or print application forms and essays.

Make Copies of Everything You Send – If application materials are lost, having copies on hand makes it much easier to resend applications quickly.

Get Applications In Early – You will miss out if deadlines are missed.

Understand that Scholarships Could Affect Your Financial Aid Package – Private scholarships can actually reduce parts of your financial aid package. Colleges must consider outside scholarships as part of a student's financial resources available to pay for education costs.

What to Include – Many scholarships require you to provide some combination of the following: transcripts; standardized test scores; financial aid forms, such as the FAFSA; parents' financial information, including tax returns; one or more essays; one or more letters of recommendation; and/or proof of eligibility.

Source: The Community Foundation of South Alabama