

## **What information do I need when applying for scholarships?**

What information do I need when applying for scholarships? Let's start with what you will NOT need. Most scholarship sponsors do not require an application fee. Do not pay anyone who claims to be "holding a scholarship or grant for you." If you have to give money to get money, it might be a scam.

### **Scholarship Tips**

#### **1. Start looking early!**

While searching for additional scholarships takes time and energy, it is well worth it if it helps reduce tuition costs. The more time you dedicate to your scholarship searches, the more options you will have.

It is not a bad idea to start looking during the summer before senior year. Once the fall semester is in full swing, students tend to be busy with class assignments in addition to college admissions applications. So, it is a good idea to look and apply during the summer for any scholarships that may have a deadline in the fall.

#### **2. Organize scholarship materials.**

Each scholarship may have a separate application deadline and specific criteria.

Many scholarships require one or more of the following:

- Financial Aid Forms (FAFSA Student Aid Report or copy of CSS Profile application)
- Parental information, including tax returns
- Personal statement or essay
- Letters of recommendation
- Proof of eligibility (credentials)
- High school transcript
- Standardized test scores

#### **3. Follow instructions and proofread.**

Complete the application accurately and fully. Include all required materials. Ensure your applications and essays are legible and free of grammatical or spelling errors. Do not forget to sign and date the application.

#### **4. Apply early!**

Keep a calendar of application deadlines. Consider using certified mail or return receipt. While many deadlines may not be until spring of senior year, others will be earlier.