

Applying for Scholarships

Learn some tips, tricks and cool advice.

There are literally thousands of scholarships available to students who are on the hunt for the right match! Some require an application, an essay or other documentation – and a prompt deadline. Take advantage of your talent, drive and ambition and receive funds to help with your college costs. Some are awarded based on financial need. Others look at your academic achievements, school activities or planned major.



Start Local

There are tons of students every day submitting applications and the more local you are, the more your chances are at getting that scholarship.

Start with EOU. Here you are only applying with other EOU students. Once you've submitted all you can with EOU, then look broader. Are there any city or county scholarships? Or perhaps a business. Then expand your search to statewide. Your chances are 1 in about 200,000 to earning a state scholarship.

You have a 1 in a 10 million chance at getting anything National, however, there are millions to choose from. The question you have to ask yourself... are you willing to work for it?

Writing your Essay

Many scholarships require an application essay. This is a great way to stand out. Think of it as giving them a glimpse into your world and why you want this scholarship.

A lot of scholarship essays have similar themes, such as what are your career goals and why did you choose that path? While it would be so easy to just answer with, "it pays well", that isn't what they are looking for. Essays should come from the heart. Where were you when you realized that is the career you wanted? Who was with you and what were the events leading up to that discovery? Have you had any hard times in your past that will affect how your career path goes? Did you have any support whether a parent, teacher or close friend? Being able to talk about the hard times gives the reader a chance to understand a student's resilience and ability to problem solve.

Avoid saying common phrases like, "no one works harder than me". Instead say, "I will continue to focus my energy and time on education. I'm eager to work hard and learn as much as I can from my professors and peers."



[Dates & Deadlines]

October 1, 2021

- ☑ Complete FAFSA online for the next academic year (fafsa.ed.gov).
- ☑ Complete ORSAA online for the next academic year (oregonstudentaid.gov).
- ☑ [ORSAA Tip Sheet](#)
- ☑ Online scholarship application opens for [EOU Foundation](#), [ASTEIO](#), Diversity Achievement, and MESA Scholarships for the next academic year.

November 1, 2021

- ☑ Early-bird admission for University Scholar/Scholarly-Need Awards. [OSAC scholarship application](#) opens up for the next academic year!

January 4, 2022

- ☑ Application deadline for Winter term 2020 [transfer awards](#).

February 1, 2022 (11:59 pm)

- ☑ Deadline for completed, online scholarship application for Foundation and Diversity Achievement scholarships.
- ☑ Admission deadline for priority consideration of University Scholar/Scholarly-Need awards.
- ☑ University Achievement Award still available after February 1st, for freshman. Complete your admission application today!

Make sure you proofread! Read it out loud, ask a peer or EOU staff to proof it for you. Those in the Learning Center or in Financial Aid would love to support you with that.

Also pay attention to the word limit for your essay. 250 words is equivalent to a one paged typed and double spaced. Insure that you won't be disqualified for going over. While you don't necessarily have to write an essay that hits the limit, it's good practice to come close to it.

End your essay with a brief thank you with something like, "Thank you for this opportunity and for taking the time to read this essay." It's polite and to the point.

A great tool to help you write your essay is creating a flow chart (like the one below). Write the question or essay topic on the top and then think about 3 main ideas to talk about that references your topic. You will need an introduction, body and conclusion. Think of it like a road map. Without a map, I'm often known for turning down a questionable jeep trail, then forgetting where I was originally going. Just like in essay, when we start to talk sometimes, we deviate and have to circle back to what we were talking about. However the method, find what works for you. Give yourself time and a pat on the back... you got this!



Avoid Common Mistakes!

Their vs They're vs There

Your vs You're

College vs Collage

~

"I told someone at work that I had a massage for them and boy were they shocked! I really meant they had a message."

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE CAREER GOALS AND WHAT MAKES YOU A GREAT CANDIDATE?

What are some past experiences that lead you to your goal?

Details:
What happened in that memorable event that ties to your goal?

What obstacles did you overcome that make you feel that your goal is a fit for you?

Details:
Talk about a hard time you had in life that you made it through, how did you do it?

Was there a family member, teacher or peer that gave you support?

Details:
What advice did they give you? Did you listen the first time? How did they make an impact?