



## Scholarship 101 - How to Start

### Career Resource Center (CRC)

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**Finding scholarships** (in no particular order): **1.** H.S. scholarship bulletins (printed/on West website under Curriculum) <[www.asdk12.org/schools/west/pages/](http://www.asdk12.org/schools/west/pages/)>; **2.** Internet; **3.** Scholarship Internet search sites (No. 12 below); **4.** Library books or local bookstore; **5.** Your place of work/volunteer work and local organizations (No. 6 below); and **6.** Ask at family-oriented civic/ethnic groups to see if they support or provide scholarships.

**What to do:** **1.** Set up separate email for scholarships/college applications (no 'cute' or 'sexy' email name); you can get a LOT of responses that clog up your personal email. **2.** Use a notebook and/or calendar to keep track of scholarships, deadlines, and checklists; **3.** Read scholarship info and apply only if you meet minimum qualifications; **4.** Follow the directions exactly (i.e., if they want a *certified* transcript, order one online from the Registrar—do not send an unofficial transcript from your counselor); **5.** Set YOUR personal deadline to complete the application BEFORE the deadline; and **6.** Just do it! (Scholarships are 'lost' by not applying.)

Several scholarship categories (something for everyone):

**1) Contest.** Fill out info (or write an essay), press submit and you are in a random drawing for a scholarship.

**2) Special Interest/Skills.** May have to give proof of participation with a group (TRIO: Upward Bound/Educational Talent Search, Explorers Clubs, etc.), do a science project, compete in a math program, etc.

**3) Financial Need — Needs Based (grant = no pay back; loan = pay back)**

**a) Many scholarships** use 'need' as primary criteria—based mostly on parent(s) income, not students. The exceptions are those with legal guardians other than parents and those who are homeless.

**b) The FAFSA** (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) will document the need for grant money and/or what parents/students can be expected to contribute (EFC). This is a standard online form for **every** college student to fill out before the Fall you start college. It is based on income tax and family information (how many children and age of parents). **Best to fill out January 1 to March 15**, because most government needs-based money (first come-first served) is given out early; if you delay, monies may be gone for the year. NOTE: If you qualify for Denali Kid Care, lunch waivers or have multiple children at home or in college, you may qualify for some needs-based help. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

**c) Highly competitive universities** (Harvard, Duke, Stanford, etc.) now give free tuition for \$60,000 and below; reduced tuition in a middle class salary range (\$80,000 - \$120,000) and below. *A student first must be accepted to the college*; then each college has their own financial forms for determining need.

**4) Major in College.** Scholarships target women and minorities in underutilized areas (for instance, engineering, teaching, or medical fields).

**5) Minority Status.** Alaska Native and Native American in particular, but also Hispanic, African-American, Pacific Islanders and the female gender have opportunities for scholarships and even free tuition. Alaska Natives should check with their corporations. The largest multi-ethnic scholarship, Gates Millennium, is needs based. Several schools, Ft. Lewis (Colorado) for example, will provide free tuition for Alaska Natives and Native Americans accepted into their colleges. Colleges in areas of the country where there is little ethnic diversity are good places to look for diversity or cultural scholarships.

**6) Local Anchorage scholarships**

**a) Your work** location may offer scholarships. Some businesses will offer them if you continue working while going to college or agree to work for them upon completion of certificate/degree. Great Cuts, Federal Express, Burger King, some restaurants (Gwennies) are all said to do this.

**b) Student Scholarship Portfolio.** Individual awards of \$500-\$4,000; \$40,000 given out to 2008 West Seniors. \* Portfolio guidelines and sample pages / fill-in pages can be downloaded at [www.asdk12.org/CRC](http://www.asdk12.org/CRC). \* A portfolio will have a personal essay, high school transcript, college placement test scores, school activities and organizations, volunteer and work experience, letters of recommendations, etc. Suggested draft completion and review by counselor is January 2009. Deadline: Final portfolio with three copies to Mrs. Rutz in the CRC by February 15, 2009. *I advise that two adult mentors, including your guidance counselor, review your draft scholarship portfolio.*

## Student Scholarship Portfolio (continued)

Each spring, organizations, i.e., Rotary, West H.S. Alumni and local fraternities/sororities offer scholarships (some just for West, others for all of ASD). They request a copy of, or visit the H.S. CRC and review copies of student portfolios (that's why you need three copies). They are based on participation (running/cross country skiing), financial need, interests and/or contributions you have made to West H.S. or the community.

Talk to/email [Rutz\\_Gail@asdk12.org](mailto:Rutz_Gail@asdk12.org) at West CRC for individual info. Watch for Portfolio Workshops for hints and tips on preparation. [www.asdk12.org/CRC](http://www.asdk12.org/CRC) for fill-in pages, guidelines, & shopping list.

**7. College-specific.** Scholarships awarded if you apply to attend THAT college and apply by their deadline (often between October 31-March 1). Based on academics, interest, GPA, need or skill. (Research website by Googling "college name financial aid.") Some are automatic upon applying; others you need to supply additional information. *ALL University of Alaska campuses UAF/UAA/UAS and the UA Foundation have February 15 deadline for scholarship inclusion (FAFSA also must be completed by Feb 15).*

**8. College visit.** Some small, private colleges will award a small scholarship (up to \$500) if you notify them and have a planned visit to their campus.

**9. WUE (Western Undergraduate Exchange).** Tuition agreement between Alaska and western states (including Hawaii) that allows entering freshman students reduced tuition (in-state cost plus 50%) at public universities. You may have to apply for this when you apply for admissions; it is not automatic. Each college is different, all majors may not qualify. A certain GPA or other conditions may exist for enrollment. Some are first-come and only have a few (Western Washington University); others have a lot (Eastern Washington University). See <http://wue.wiche.edu/> for school listing or the financial aid page of the individual universities.

**10. Top 10% or 25% of class.** Some colleges will give 'same as' in-state tuition if you are in the top percentage of your graduating class (a savings of thousands of dollars). In 2007, University of Minnesota did this.

University of Alaska foundation gives an \$11,000 scholarship to the top 10% of Alaska HS class (*determined at the end of the Junior year*). You will be notified in October of your Senior year if you are a "UA Scholar" recipient. This may be used for any of the UA campuses—Fairbanks, Anchorage, Southeast, etc.

NOTE: **UA Scholar** is not a full ride scholarship; it may have covered all tuition when first created but now it pays out \$1,375 per semester. UAA tuition cost for 2008-2009 is approximately \$2,010 per semester. If you decide NOT to go to a UA campus, you may (and should) accept and then defer (delay) for one year (to keep all your options open). UA Scholar money will pay for books and/or housing if your tuition is already covered.

**11. Stacking scholarships.** Know what kind of scholarship you will be getting (read the fine print). Some college scholarships will be 'reduced' by the amount you get in "outside" scholarships. Some will 'stack' on top of each other. Some pay only for tuition, some will extend to books and/or housing.

NOTE: UA Scholar allows you to use other scholarships BEFORE you use the UA Scholar; if you have enough other scholarships to cover tuition/books/housing, it will pay you the remainder of amount in a check to you personally.

## 12. Scholarship Internet Search Websites

ASD Online Resources [www.asdk12.org/CRC/online.asp](http://www.asdk12.org/CRC/online.asp)

Try signing up for at least three search websites (remember your new email account because you will get responses and notices from them). There are a lot to choose from! Here are a few:

<a href="http://www.scholarships.com">www.scholarships.com</a>	<a href="http://www.findtuition.com">www.findtuition.com</a>
<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>	<a href="http://www.petersons.com">www.petersons.com</a>
<a href="http://www.wiredscholar.com">www.wiredscholar.com</a>	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
<a href="http://www.brokescholar.com">www.brokescholar.com</a>	<a href="http://www.latinocollegedollars.org">www.latinocollegedollars.org</a>
<a href="http://www.collegenet.com/mach25/app">www.collegenet.com/mach25/app</a>	<a href="http://www.edfund.org">www.edfund.org</a>
<a href="http://www.scholarshipexperts.com">www.scholarshipexperts.com</a>	<a href="http://www.mach25.com">www.mach25.com</a>
<a href="http://www.hsf.net/">www.hsf.net/</a> Hispanic Scholarship fund	<a href="http://www.finaid.com">www.finaid.com</a>
<a href="http://www.fastaid.com">www.fastaid.com</a>	<a href="http://www.gocollege.com">www.gocollege.com</a>
<a href="http://www.militaryscholar.org">www.militaryscholar.org</a> Military dependents	<a href="http://www.scholarstuff.com">www.scholarstuff.com</a>
<a href="http://www.artsawrds.org/Students/index.html">www.artsawrds.org/Students/index.html</a>	<a href="http://www.supercollege.com">www.supercollege.com</a>
<a href="http://www.Allscholar.com">www.Allscholar.com</a>	<a href="http://www.kasf.org">www.kasf.org</a>
<a href="http://www.princetonreview.com/finance/articles/scholarsearch.asp">www.princetonreview.com/finance/articles/scholarsearch.asp</a>	

<b>BRING IN COPIES or EMAIL THE OFFERS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS YOU. Thanks!</b>	Questions? Email at <a href="mailto:Rutz_Gail@asdk12.org">Rutz_Gail@asdk12.org</a>
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