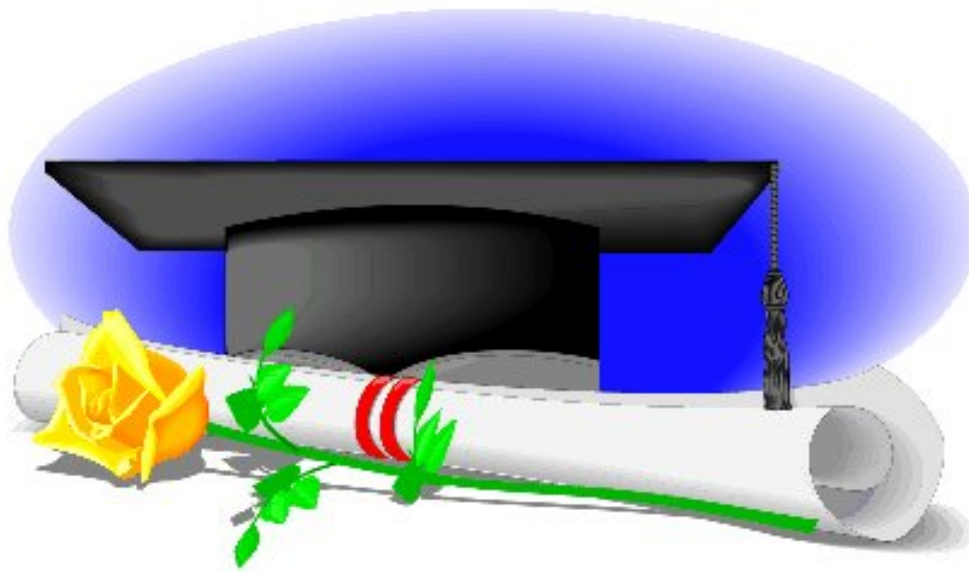


Finding Money for College Scholarships and Grants



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Contents

Contents.....	1
Contents.....	4
An Introduction to Scholarships.....	5
Athletic Scholarships: Getting and Keeping Them	7
College Financial Advice And Where To Seek It Out.....	8
Financing Your Education: Coping With Financial Strain	10
Help Is At Hand with Scholarship Searching Services	12
Looking Closer To Home: Institutional Scholarships	14
Low Income Families and Educational Financial Help	16
Making Your Own Destiny With Company Scholarships	18
Managing Scholarship Requirements And Your Health	20
Online Degrees And Scholarships: Supplementing Your Education....	22
Passing the Test: Scholarships And The PSAT.....	23
Scholarships And Nationality: Your Guide	25
Scholarships for the Older Generation	27
Scholarships, Grants and the Internet.....	29
Scholarships, Grants and Your Family	30
Showcasing Your Talents: Attracting Sponsorship	32
The Outsider: Funding For Out Of State Students	34
The Questions to Ask About Grants and Scholarships	36
The Scholarship Application and Making It Yours!	38
The Search Engine and the Scholarship: An Unhealthy Relationship .	40
The Travel Bug and How It Will Affect Scholarships	42
A Guide to Scholarship Applications	44
Welcome to the Wonderful World of Federal Grants.....	47
How to Write the Ultimate Grant Proposal.....	49
Lending A Helping Hand: The Difference Between A Hardship Loan And A Hardship Grant	50
All Resources.....	52

An Introduction to Scholarships

Money does seem to make the world go round these days and that is not always a good thing for anyone looking to advance himself or herself. If you cannot afford an education then you are missing out on the chance to fulfill your own potential. This can actually have a knock on effect on the rest of the surrounding area. You may have skills that could be of great service to another and yet never have the opportunity to develop them, and that is why it is extremely important to seek out any way possible of fulfilling your potential and developing yourself to the fullest extent. That is in fact where scholarships come in!

Scholarships and grants can provide a fantastic source of financial aid for individuals who either deserve it in terms of their talent or are struggling as a result of financial hardship. In some cases, the individual actually falls under both category headings. Regardless of where they fit into the scheme of things, talented individuals that need help can get it from a scholarship or grant.

A scholarship is a financial merit-based award that a student would have to apply for. The scholarship may be a package of financial aid to help the student. It could include housing and course materials as well as tuition, or just the tuition. It may only be a percentage of the tuition. This is dependent on the terms and conditions of the scholarship itself and what it offers. It may last for an academic year or for the duration of your degree course. However, it will always have conditions attached, and this will most likely relate to your grade point average. It would have to remain above a certain level for you to qualify for the scholarship.

A grant is totally different. Again, you would have to apply for it, but it would be a one off payment that would be awarded to you for a specific purpose. It may be a specific topic you are working on would be eligible for funding and you were given a grant of a set amount to help. You may be eligible for a housing grant if your family's income level is below a certain level. Whatever the reason for the award, it is a one off payment of a set amount.

Scholarships can be applied for by anyone attending an academic institution for a period of time. The application forms are usually quite extensive and can take hours to fill in properly. One slight mistake on the form could get it discarded, so the most important thing for you to do is actually read through the instructions and comply with what it is asking from you to the letter! There will literally be thousands of candidates for any scholarship so you have to be able to make your application stand out from the crowd in order to obtain the funding. It does help if you have a gift for certain ones, but the majority just want to help someone who needs the funding and stand out from the crowd.

The one rule is do not lie. If you do they will find out during the course of their investigations and considerations, and your application will immediately be rejected! Always be honest and

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time so that you are not putting your eggs in the one basket. It never hurts to have a back up, especially where college and money is concerned!

show your awards and merits up in the best light possible if you want results. It may also be worth applying for several scholarships and grants at any given

Scholarships and grants can be difficult to get to grips with if you have never had experience of them before so it is essential that you fully understand the process and concept before beginning to apply. Financing is important for college students these days so you owe it to yourself to do the best you can in terms of your application. It is your future after all!

Athletic Scholarships: Getting and Keeping Them

Athletic scholarships are much sought after amongst the students of today. They appear to be some sort of status symbol that marks them as more talented than their peers and can indeed pave the

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way for the individual to move onto bigger and better things in the future. A good number of individuals receiving an athletic scholarship will probably go on to become professional sports stars one day, whether playing basketball, American football, soccer or another sport such as wrestling or golf. The options are endless but to get and keep an athletic scholarship an individual student must work extremely hard. After all, there can be no bigger heartache than getting there and then losing everything you have technically earned.

Athletic scholarships are like gold dust, especially those that take the individual it was awarded to way on to the next level. It is extremely important that a good athlete maintains a certain academic and personal level in order to maintain the gift that he or she has been given. After all, it can be hard to earn an athletic scholarship in the first place. Not only does the individual have to be good at the sport of his or her choice, he or she also be getting a decent grade point average throughout his or her high school career in order to be considered. It is not that they will not be offered an athletic scholarship if their GPA is not up to scratch, they just will not be able to go to the better colleges unless it is elevated. This also applies when they are there!

Although college sports stars are just that, stars in their own right, they are not exempt from the rules of the university and have a strict code of conduct to adhere to. They need to be able to maintain good grades and keep up with midterms and papers, as well as other assignments because they can actually be suspended from their sports duties if they are not maintaining a high standard. There have been rumors in the past that the GPA of an athletics scholarship is somewhat lower than the GPAs set for other

awards, but that is largely not the case at the more prestigious universities.

An athletics scholarship covers just about every expense that the

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individual athlete would have. It includes housing, tuition, course materials and everything else that you could think of. In truth, it gives them the easiest financial ride out of every single student on

every campus across the United States, because they bring glory for their college. It was also a practice some time ago to give them gifts such as cars to lure the star athletes away from other universities. This has since been outlawed because it is considered a bribe.

Although they will miss having a car as a present, this demonstrates how much time has altered the way that athletes on scholarships are supposed to behave. Any scandal and they are out, low grades and they are out, and any hint of drugs in their systems and they are out. It may be tough to get to the top and earn athletics scholarship, but it could be even tougher to stay there if individuals do not stick to the rules!

College Financial Advice and Where to Seek It Out

Getting through college is one of the most financially straining experiences that you will ever have during the course of your life. The expense is phenomenal and still rising, despite the fact that more and more families are falling below the poverty line. Without money though, there is no way that you could even consider going to college or staying on if you have already started, stay on there. This is unfortunately not very fair and the system does not tend to help students in need out, but there are individuals that you can go

to for financial advice if you ever think you may be in need of a boost to keep you in college.

Getting a job is obviously the first step to help you get through

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college somewhat intact. Campuses often have job websites or notice boards that you can tap into if you need money and need it quickly. There are usually various resources of this nature available because it keeps any

of the jobs going in student hands rather than giving the jobs to individuals outside of the college when the need is greater elsewhere. Depending on the size of the campus, the variety of jobs may actually be extensive. Failing that, there are probably experiments going on in the psychology department that will usually pay for the pleasure of exploring your mind. For a quick fix, this will do, but what about the more long term problems of staying at college when dubitation fees and housing fees come around again?

Every good college or university will have a financial office as well as a student guidance centre. They may not be called that because they go under a variety of different guises. However, I guarantee that they will be there somewhere. If in doubt, just head to the administrative centre of your university and you will most likely find it there. If not, you will no doubt be redirected to the right place.

Guidance counselors at your college and university can be found in the student help departments and are employed for the sole reason of finding a viable solution for student problems, and money and funding often dominate their time. So many students find themselves in need of a cash injection because they live on the poverty line that the individuals employed there will most definitely know their stuff and be able to advise you far better than any individual elsewhere in the school or outside of it ever could.

The guidance counselors at your school will be able to point you in the right direction for grants, scholarships, hardship loans and quick fixes that will enable you to get your head back above water again. They will also be able to provide you with information to help avoid another similar circumstance occurring as well as providing you

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with ongoing advice and support. You will probably find shelves stacked with manual and books that could also be used to help you because they will be able to enlighten you on the wonderful world of scholarships and grants that are there to keep

you on course for completing your education as well as enhance your future prospects.

The majority of individuals working in such an office will be highly trained and you will probably be referred to a particular guidance counselor so you can return to him or her whenever you need help in the future. This will give you peace of mind straight away and will remove most of the strain and stress that you would most definitely be under!

Financing Your Education: Coping With Financial Strain

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