



## GUIDE TO COMPLETING PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

**START  
HERE**

### BRAINSTORM BEFORE RESEARCHING SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Create a comprehensive list of your accomplishments.

- Sports, clubs, babysitting, church, leadership, work experience, family care, etc.

#### Answer the following common scholarship questions:

- Tell us about yourself.
- Describe a time you overcame adversity.
- What do you plan to study in college? Why?
- What makes you unique?
- Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability in your community.

**NEXT  
STEPS**

### BE THOROUGH DURING THE SEARCH

- Find **FREE** scholarship search services. (See p. 2)
- Seek out community resources, including community foundations, community groups, cultural organizations, employers, places of worship, and high school counselors.
- Pay attention to qualifications and requirements (**every** scholarship is different).
- Make a list of scholarships you will apply for.
- Prioritize your list by deadline.
- Add details of all materials required for submission.

**ALMOST  
DONE**

### COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATIONS

- Work on **one** scholarship at a time.
- Reread specifications of the essay.
- Create an outline using your brainstorm topics.
- **Show** the reader; don't just **tell** them
- Use **specific** examples.
- Write multiple drafts. **Never** submit a first draft essay.
- Proofread! Proofread! Proofread! Have a trusted adult or a peer read over your final draft prior to submission.

### TIME TO SUBMIT!

- Make sure your application has **all** required documents.
- Double check that your essay answered **all** prompts given.
- Make a copy! Always keep a record of your submissions.

### HOW TO KEEP YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

Some scholarships may be renewable. However, renewable scholarships might have ongoing requirements, including:

- **Submit a renewal application.** Scholarships may require a new application each academic year.
- **Grade point average.** You may need to maintain a minimum GPA to remain eligible.
- **Satisfactory academic progress.** You may be required to fulfill academic requirements, such as completing a certain number of credits or courses within a set amount of time.
- **Designated field of study.** Will you lose the scholarship if you change majors?
- **Full-time enrollment status.** Scholarships frequently require you to be a full-time student.

Talk to your school or scholarship sponsor as soon as you receive the scholarship to determine whether it is renewable and what renewal steps to take. Remember that sponsors offer scholarships throughout the year!

## PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ELIGIBLE ENTERING STUDENTS

Listed below are a few of the private scholarships available to eligible students who are entering college. There are many others, and you can find out more by using one of the many free scholarships search sites listed below. To learn about U-M scholarships for entering undergraduates, visit [finaid.umich.edu/types-aid/scholarships](https://finaid.umich.edu/types-aid/scholarships).

### NO-ESSAY SCHOLARSHIPS

[colleges.niche.com/scholarships](https://colleges.niche.com/scholarships)

- Open to all students
- Must register with College Prowler
- Deadline: Last business day of each month
- Scholarship awarded monthly through random drawing (one-time)

### COCA-COLA SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

[coca-colascholarfoundation.org/applicants/programs](https://coca-colascholarfoundation.org/applicants/programs)

- 3.0 GPA
- Transcript, community activities, and employment record required for first round
- Deadline: Oct. 31
- 250 regional finalists will interview
- 2,200 semi-finalists must submit additional materials

### HORATIO ALGER MICHIGAN SCHOLARSHIP

[scholars.horatioalger.org](https://scholars.horatioalger.org)

- Must be a high school senior and a Michigan U.S. citizen planning to enter a U.S. college the fall after graduation
- Must be involved in co-curricular and community service activities
- Family income (AGI) must be \$55,000 or below
- Display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity
- Must have a minimum 2.0 GPA
- Four essays required
- Deadline: Oct. 25
- \$25,000 scholarship

### JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

[jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/college-scholarship](https://jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/college-scholarship)

- 3.5 GPA - SAT 1200 - ACT 26 – Demonstrated financial need – Leadership – Desire to help others
- Deadline: Nov. 17
- Includes college transition advising
- Up to \$40,000 per year at four-year accredited undergraduate school, any area of study
- 30-40 recipients annually

### JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

[jackierobinson.org/apply/](https://jackierobinson.org/apply/)

- Graduating, minority high school senior
- Plan to attend an accredited and approved four-year institution within the U.S.
- Show leadership potential, dedication to community service, and demonstrate need
- Minimum 1,000 combined math and critical reading score on SAT or 21 composite ACT score
- Application opens Nov. 1; deadline is Jan. 12.
- Scholarships up to \$30,000 over four years

### EDUCATION MATTERS SCHOLARSHIP

[unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/education-matters-5k-scholarship](https://unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/education-matters-5k-scholarship)

- Must be at least 13 years of age
- Must be a U.S. resident
- One 250-word essay required
- Deadline Nov. 30
- \$5,000 scholarships (one-time)

### MICHIGAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

A number of Michigan-based community foundations offer scholarships to entering college students. We encourage students to explore these opportunities.

For a full list of community foundations around Michigan, please visit the Michigan Community Foundations website at:

[forgoodforever.org/ALIMI.htm](https://forgoodforever.org/ALIMI.htm)

### COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

[cfsem.org/scholarships/](https://cfsem.org/scholarships/)

### COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

[cfnem.org](https://cfnem.org)

### KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

[www.kalfound.org/scholarships/how-to-apply](https://www.kalfound.org/scholarships/how-to-apply)

### JACKSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

[jacksoncf.org](https://jacksoncf.org)

### SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

[saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships](https://saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships)

## FREE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SERVICES

### CHEGG

[chegg.com/advice/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid-admissions](https://chegg.com/advice/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid-admissions)

### COLLEGE BOARD'S SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

[bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search)

### APPILY

[appily.com/scholarships](https://appily.com/scholarships)

### COLLEGESCHOLARSHIPS.COM

### FASTWEB

[fastweb.com](https://fastweb.com)

### SCHOLARSHIPS.COM

[scholarshipamerica.org](https://scholarshipamerica.org)

### HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HACU) SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCE LIST

[hacu.net/hacu/scholarships.asp](https://hacu.net/hacu/scholarships.asp)



Applying for private scholarships is a good idea for high school seniors. Continue to apply for them throughout your college career.