

SCHOLARSHIPS 101

Westport Counseling Office

11.2017

OVERVIEW

- ▶ Who Wins Scholarships?
- ▶ Basic Strategies for Winning Scholarships
- ▶ Searching for Scholarships
- ▶ Tips on Winning Scholarships
- ▶ Pitfalls and Dangers
- ▶ After You Win a Scholarship
- ▶ Top Ten Lists
- ▶ Key Scholarship Resources

WHO WINS SCHOLARSHIPS?

- ▶ **Very few students win a completely free ride**
 - ▶ Of students enrolled full-time at a 4-year college
 - ▶ 0.3% get enough grants to cover the full COA
 - ▶ 1.0% get enough grants to cover 90% or more of the COA
 - ▶ 3.4% get enough grants to cover 75% or more of the COA
 - ▶ 14.3% get enough grants to cover 50% or more of the COA
 - ▶ **Of students winning scholarships, more than two-thirds (69.1%) received less than \$2,500**
- ▶ More students at 4-year colleges win scholarships
 - ▶ 8.3% of students at 4-year colleges win scholarships
 - ▶ 2.6% of students at 2-year colleges win scholarships

SOME MAJORS ARE MORE LUCRATIVE

Major	Percentage Winning	Average Award
Math/Statistics	23.2%	\$4,059
Engineering	17.6%	\$3,075
Physical Sciences	17.1%	\$3,180
Life Sciences	16.9%	\$2,649
Education	15.0%	\$2,420
Health	14.8%	\$2,880
Social Sciences	12.7%	\$3,063
Humanities	12.5%	\$2,623
Computer Science	11.1%	\$2,974
Business	9.1%	\$2,828

MORE STUDENTS WITH GOOD GRADES WIN

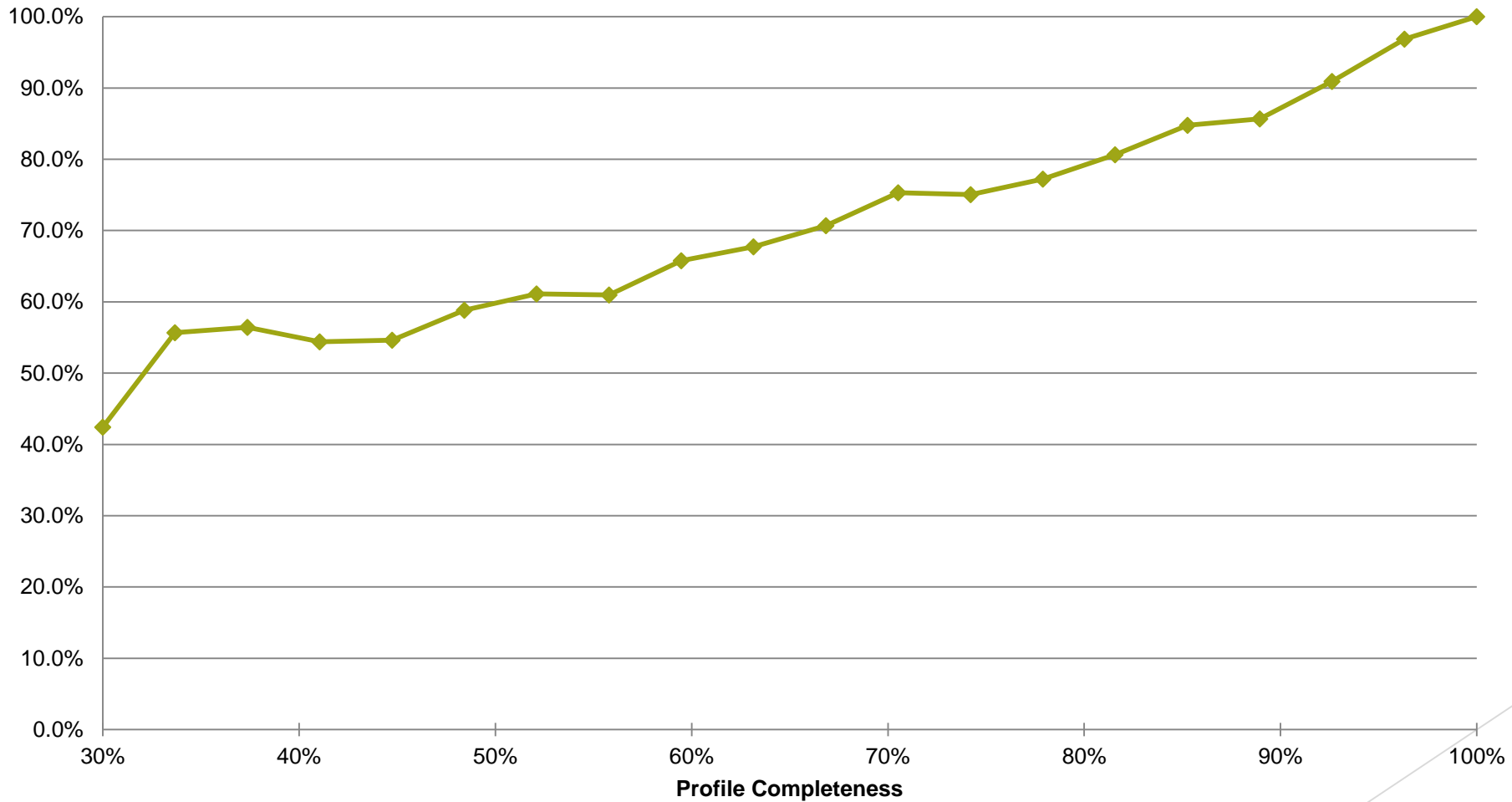
Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4.0 Scale	High School GPA (% Winning Scholarships)	College GPA (% Winning Scholarships)
0.0-1.9 (D- to C)	5.7%	7.0%
2.0-2.4 (C to B-)	7.1%	9.1%
2.5-2.9 (B- to B)	9.5%	10.7%
3.0-3.4 (B to A-)	10.7%	13.1%
3.5-4.0 (A- to A)	18.7%	18.8%

STRATEGIES FOR WINNING SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ **It's a numbers game**
 - ▶ Even among talented students, who wins involves a bit of luck, not just skill
 - ▶ To win more scholarships, apply to more scholarships, but only if you qualify
- ▶ **You can't win if you don't apply**
 - ▶ One in four students never applies for financial aid
- ▶ **It gets easier after your first 6 applications**
 - ▶ Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application
- ▶ **Don't miss deadlines**

PROFILE COMPLETENESS MATTERS

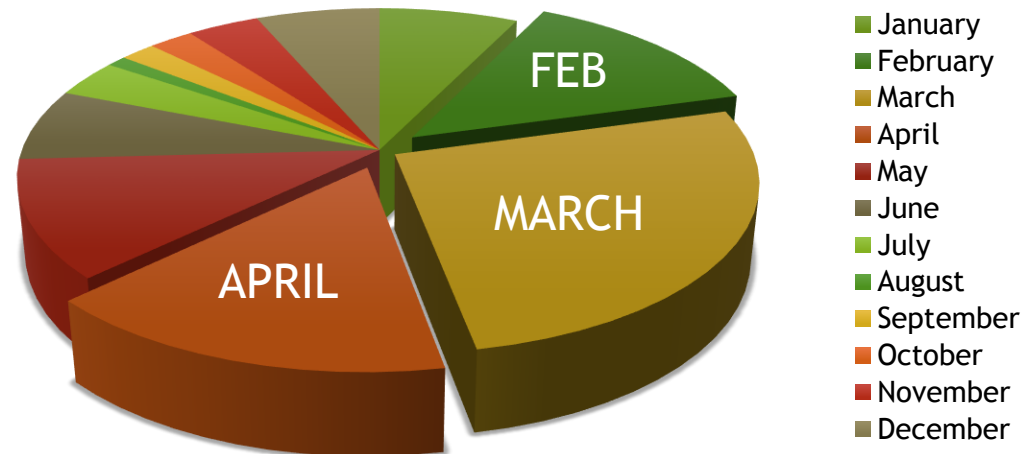
Percent of Potential Matches



COLLEGE FUNDING: SCHOLARSHIPS

When to apply for scholarships?

- ▶ Large majority of scholarship deadlines are within the months of **February-April**



TIPS ON WINNING SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ Prioritize your applications by deadline and the expected value of the scholarship
- ▶ Use a calendar and checklist to get organized
- ▶ Create an accomplishments resume
- ▶ Tailor your application to the sponsor's goals
- ▶ Read and follow the instructions
- ▶ Practice on a copy of the application form

WRITING A WINNING SCHOLARSHIP

ESSAY

- ▶ Answer the essay question orally and transcribe the recording
- ▶ Give examples and be specific
- ▶ Personalize your essay and be passionate
- ▶ Proofread a printed copy of the essay for spelling and grammar errors
- ▶ Answer the question that is asked!

Common Scholarship Essay Topics:

Why this career field?

Why this academic major? (similar!!)

Your greatest challenge?

Your 5-year career goal? 10-year?

How will this scholarship help YOU?

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIPS

- ▶ Use a professional email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com
- ▶ Clean up the content of your Facebook account, removing inappropriate and immature material
- ▶ Google your name to see what shows up
- ▶ Make a photocopy of your application before mailing it
- ▶ Send the application by certified mail, return receipt requested or with delivery confirmation
- ▶ If rejected, ask for the reviewer comments

BEWARE OF SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

- ▶ If you have to pay money to get money, it is probably a scam
- ▶ Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships or to apply for a scholarship
- ▶ Nobody can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship
- ▶ Do not give out personal information like bank account numbers, credit card numbers or Social Security numbers

MOST COMMON APPLICATION MISTAKES

- ▶ Missing deadlines
- ▶ Failing to proofread the application
- ▶ Failing to follow directions (essay length, number of recommendations)
- ▶ Omitting required information
- ▶ Applying for an award when you don't qualify
- ▶ Failing to apply for an award for which you are eligible
- ▶ Failing to tailor the application to the sponsor
- ▶ Writing a boring essay
- ▶ **Not applying at all**

TOP TEN MOST UNUSUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Scholarship for Left-Handed Students
2. Duck Brand Duct Tape Stuck at Prom Contest
3. David Letterman Telecommunications Scholarship
4. Zolp Scholarships
5. Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarship
6. Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year Award
7. National Marbles Tournament Scholarships
8. Klingon Language Institute Scholarship
9. National Beef Ambassador Program
10. Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarship

TOP TEN MOST GENEROUS SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Intel Science Talent Search
2. Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology
3. NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program
4. Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Competition
5. Davidson Fellows
6. Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
7. Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships
8. Collegiate Inventors Competition
9. Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship
10. Gates Millennium Scholars

TOP TEN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award
2. The Do Something Awards
3. Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship
4. Discover Card Tribute Award
5. Echoing Green Fellowship
6. The Heart of America Christopher Reeve Award
7. Kohl's Kids Who Care Program
8. Samuel Huntington Public Service Award
9. National Caring Award
10. Youth Action Net

TOP TEN SCHOLARSHIPS THAT DON'T NEED AN A

1. US Department of Education
2. AXA Achievement Scholarship Program
3. Horatio Alger Association Scholarships
4. Ayn Rand Institute
5. Girls Going Places Scholarship
6. Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest
7. Americanism Essay Contest
8. AFSA National Scholarship Essay Contest
9. Red Vines Drawing Contest
10. Community Foundation Scholarships

10 Unique/Fun Scholarships Worth \$12,000

- DUE JUN 1**
Emergency Dentist: \$1,000
Make a video about what superpower you would want for a chance to win up to \$1,000!
- DUE JUN 30 & DEC 15**
ShirtSpace: \$2,500
You can win if you can express yourself through a unique, do-it-yourself T-shirt design.
- DUE AUG 31**
Apartment Advisor: \$1,000
If you're looking for \$1,000 to put to your housing, apply to this internship now!
- DUE JUN 15**
Starfleet Annual: \$1,000
If you're an avid Star Trek fan, now's your time to shine and show off your passion.
- DUE DEC 15**
Online Resume Builder: \$1,000
Create the best possible resume you can, whether it's for yourself or for a superhero, TV character, or a professional.
- DUE JUN 15**
Resume Genius: \$1,000
Create a resume based on the life of any fictional or nonfictional character from TV, history, & more.
- DUE AUG 1**
Tent.net Scholarship: \$500
Apply if you're an incoming college student or a college graduate looking to further your education.
- DUE APR 1**
Wergle Flomp Humor: \$1,000
Write a humorous poem for a chance to receive \$1,000 towards scholarship money.
- DUE JUL 14**
Resume Companion: \$1,000
If you can create a creative resume for a fictional character, submit it for a chance to win.
- DUE JUN 23**
Personality Type: Up to \$2,000
Applicants of this scholarship must submit an essay of at least 1,000 words that communicates a personal statement about the use of personality type systems.

The University Network | www.TUN.com

2016-2017 Scholarships

- I HAVE A DREAM SCHOLARSHIP**
Whether it's some bizarre dream you had last week or your hopes for the future, share your dreams in 250 words or less for a chance to win \$1,500!
Deadline is January 31, 2017.
- SWEET & SIMPLE SCHOLARSHIP**
Think back to a time when you received a sweet and simple gift. In 250 words or less, explain why that gift was/is so significant, and you could win \$1,500!
Deadline is February 29, 2017.
- SUPERPOWER SCHOLARSHIP**
"Which superhero or villain would you want to change places with for a day and why?"
Deadline is March 31, 2017.
- ALL ABOUT EDUCATION**
Finances can be a serious hinderance to education. In 250 words or less, explain how this \$3,000 scholarship can make a difference in your education life.
Deadline is April 30, 2017.
- FIFTH MONTH SCHOLARSHIP**
Does the number 5 have any significance or meaning to you? Apply for this fun scholarship and you just might win \$1500 towards college!
Be funny or serious- that's totally up to you, but the deadline is dead set to May 31, 2017.
- DO-OVER SCHOLARSHIP**
"If you could get one 'do-over' in life, what would it be and why?" Don't let "applying for this scholarship" be that do-over moment for you! It's your chance to win \$1,500...!
Apply by June 30, 2017.
- MAKE-ME-LAUGH SCHOLARSHIP**
Not all scholarships have to be serious. Tell a funny or an embarrassing story for a chance to win \$1,500. You could be laughing your way to the bank!
Deadline is August 31, 2017!
- SHOUT IT OUT SCHOLARSHIP**
Shout out whatever is in your mind. The "loudest" applicant will receive the \$1,500 Shout It Out Scholarship reward.
APPLY BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2017!!!!
- EDUCATION MATTERS SCHOLARSHIP**
"What would you say to someone who thinks education doesn't matter, or that college is a waste of time and money?" Speak up for education and help yourself pay for it by winning this \$5,000 scholarship.
Deadline is November 30, 2017.

To apply to these scholarships (and to see more) www.tun.com/blog/category/scholarships



NOVEMBER SCHOLARSHIPS

- QASYMPHONY SCHOLARSHIP**
\$1000 DUE 11/1
- BECAUSE I LOVE YOU SCHOLARSHIP**
\$1000 DUE 11/7
- PRUDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
\$5000 DUE 11/7
- YMA FASHION SCHOLARSHIP**
\$5000 DUE 11/16
- EASY MONEY SCHOLARSHIP**
\$1000 DUE 11/30
- RC STATE SCHOLARSHIP**
\$1000 DUE 11/30
- RIVER COHEN SCHOLARSHIP**
\$1000 DUE 11/30
- NITRO PARENT SCHOLARSHIP**
\$5,000 DUE 11/30
- HOSTGATOR SCHOLARSHIP**
\$1500 DUE 11/30
- COMCAST SCHOLARSHIP**
\$1000 DUE 11/30

how2winscholarships.com

DECEMBER Scholarships

- DUE DEC 1**
 - 1. American Classic Home: \$1,000
 - 2. USA University Student: \$3,000
 - 3. Burning Tree: \$1,000
 - 4. Ghostek Scholarship: \$1,000
 - 5. Giva Scholarship: \$1,000
 - 6. PlayYourCourt: \$1,000
 - 7. SimpleTexting College: \$1,000
 - 8. Upgraded Points: \$1,000
- DUE DEC 5**
 - 9. Bookmark: \$500
- DUE DEC 9**
 - 10. Spokeo: \$1,000
- DUE DEC 13**
 - 11. Offers: \$2,500
- DUE DEC 15**
 - 12. Allure HBF: \$1,000
 - 13. CourseHorse: \$1,000
 - 14. CreditCardHQ: \$1,000
 - 15. CrowdReviews: \$1,000
 - 16. StudyPug: \$1,000
 - 17. Christophers: \$2,000
- DUE DEC 20**
 - 18. Hooked to Books: \$1,000
- DUE DEC 30**
 - 19. Dogs by Nina: \$1,000
- DUE DEC 31**
 - 20. A Better America: \$1,000
 - 21. Flight Network: \$1,000
 - 22. CustomerBloom: \$1,000
 - 23. Free College, LLC: \$10,000
 - 24. Grey Smoke: \$3,000
 - 25. Harris Poll: \$1,000
 - 26. Ivein: \$2,000
 - 27. Promises: Up to \$6,000
 - 28. Future: \$1,000
 - 29. Nitro College: \$5,000
 - 30. Tobi Cares: \$3,000
 - 31. Wedding Video: \$500

The University Network | www.TUN.com

KEY FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- ▶ www.finaid.org
 - ▶ Scholarships
 - ▶ websearch
 - ▶ Scholarshipscams
 - ▶ taxbenefits
- ▶ www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams (Federal Trade Commission)
- ▶ www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC)

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>

- Adventures in Education Scholarship Search

<http://www.adventuresineducation.org/Scholarships/index.cfm>

- College Board's Scholarship Search

http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp

- College Toolkit (scholarship search)

<http://CollegeToolkit.com>

- CollegeNET's MACH 25 Scholarship Database

<http://www.collegenet.com/mach25/>

- DegreeAdvantage

<http://www.degreeadvantage.com/>

- EducationPlanner

<http://www.EducationPlanner.org>

- FastWeb Scholarship Search

<http://www.studentservices.com/fastweb/>

More online on Mapping Your Future at <http://mappingyourfuture.org/paying/scholarshipsearch.htm>