

Junior Handbook



Rockford High School
Class of 2022

Rockford High School
Class of 2021

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Rockford High School is an equal opportunity institution. RHS does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex or physical/mental disability in its educational programming, enrollment, employment or contracting.

Rockford High School Graduation Requirements

Coursework Requirements	Credits Required	Qualifying Courses and Other Notes
English	4.0	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> English 9 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> English 10 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> English 11 or AP English Language & Composition <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> English in 12 th - two options: <u>Option 1</u> - Senior Composition or Technical Writing PLUS one of: Contemporary Lit, Shakespeare, Psychology through Lit, Multicultural Lit, Sports Lit <u>Option 2</u> - AP English Literature & Composition
Communications - R	0.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose from: Speech, Policy Debate, Theater, TV Studio 1, Yearbook A, B, and C
Mathematics	4.0	Must include: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra 1 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Other Math <input type="checkbox"/> Math or Math-related in 12 th grade • Credit for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 may be earned in middle school. • Math-related approved classes for 12th grade: Chemistry or Physics beyond the graduation requirements, Accounting, Business & Personal Finance, Financial Management, and selected KCTC courses (see your counselor for details). <u>Please note that "math-related" classes do not count as a math credit for college admissions.</u> • Math in 12 th grade may be a repeat of Algebra 2
Physical Education	1.5 or 1.0	<input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Phys Ed 9 <input type="checkbox"/> R - Additional 0.5 credit of Phys Ed – OR – • Participation in Marching Band or an RHS-sanctioned sport or club for two seasons. Approved clubs are Dance and Equestrian. • A student may also apply for a waiver of this 0.5 credit for outside athletic activities; see your counselor for details.
Science	3.0	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Earth or other Science <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Biology <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry and/or Physics
Social Studies	3.0 or 3.5	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> World Studies <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> American Studies or <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> AP US History <input type="checkbox"/> Economics <input type="checkbox"/> Government
World Language	2.0	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 2.0 credits of the same language. May be earned in grades K-8; see counselor for details. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Visual, Performing, or Applied Arts	1.0	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Choose from: Art (all classes), Marketing Communications, Multimedia, TV Studio, Computer Science Principles (regular or AP), Communications (all classes), Writing for the Print Media, Yearbook, Creative Writing, Parenting Psychology, Clothing, Music (all classes), Tech Ed (all classes), qualifying KCTC programs (see your counselor for details).

Other Requirements

Credits Earned - R	27.5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competency Test - R		<input type="checkbox"/> Students must earn scores of 4 or higher on all three areas of the ACT WorkKeys test.
Junior Testing Requirement - R		<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Effort on junior year testing sequence.

R = Local RHS Graduation Requirement

A course may fulfill both a state and a local graduation requirement.

CAREER WEBSITES

Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training

www.doleta.gov

Information on apprenticeships, benefits, eligibility and location of programs

Bureau of Labor and Statistics

www.bls.gov/emp/home.htm

Career outlooks, occupational employment projections and more

Career Education Consumer Report

www.mycareereducation.org

Career research hosted by the State of Michigan

CareerInfoNet

<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/ACINet.aspx>

This site provides information on industry trends like the fastest growing occupations, the highest paying occupations, and those that have declining employment. It also provides useful information on green careers, apprenticeships, and an apprenticeship finder. There is an interest assessment and a skills profiler as well. Relevant data on wages as well as a resume guide can be found on this website, too.

Career Focus 2000 Interest Inventory

www.iccweb.com/services-resources-available/perfect-career-interest-inventory/

Interest inventory

Constructions Careers in Michigan

www.miconstructioncareers.org

This site provides salary stats, job offerings, and lists of apprentice school in Michigan and the surrounding areas. Online job descriptions offer info such as the scope of work, working conditions, apprenticeship requirements, and other contacts. This site also gives career descriptions for related careers such as cement masons, boilermakers, etc.

The Career Key

www.careerkey.org

This assessment measures skills, abilities, values, personality and interests. It also identifies jobs skills and has career information.

Engineering: Your Future

<http://www.egfi-k12.org/engineer-your-path/>

Created by The American Society for Engineering Education, this website answers common questions about choosing a major in the field and resulting career options that will become available after graduation. This site includes press releases, assessment tests, homework help, and information about choosing (and paying) for a college or university.

Going Pro in Michigan

www.going-pro.com

This program was created to elevate the perception of professional trades in Michigan and showcase opportunities in a variety of growing careers. The need for professional trade talent in Michigan has never been greater. Highly skilled individuals are in demand for careers in healthcare, information technology, advanced manufacturing, construction, and automotive.

Health Careers for Today & Tomorrow

www.mihott.org

This website offers information on a variety of health careers. It includes a quiz that will give you suggestions on careers.

MICHIGAN WORKS!

www.michiganworks.org

Naviance

www.naviance.com

Naviance makes it easier than ever for students to answer the questions that will shape their future: Who am I? What do I want to be? How will I get there? and How will I succeed? The new design delivers Naviance to students' fingertips with tools that personalize and simplify the college and career planning process. The career planning and assessment tools in Naviance allow students to realize their strengths, goals, knowledge, values, and interests in future careers, to help them work toward a path that is inspiring to them.

Occupation Outlook Handbook

www.bls.gov/ooh

This website provides data on occupations as compiled by the US Government. Search for a specific occupation, by occupational cluster, or through the entire occupation list. Information on each career includes earning potential, education, training requirements, and future employment outlook.

O*NET OnLine United States Department of Labor

<http://www.onetonline.org>

The O*NET database includes information on skills, abilities, knowledge, work activities associated with occupations. Users can connect to the O*NET Occupational Information Network Resource Center by clicking on the O*NET Resource Center icon.

SPECIAL TRAINING

There are a number of different ways to approach preparing for a career beyond traditional college. Some students choose to pursue specific training for a career where they develop a set of skills specific to the career goals they have. Options include certificate training programs, associate degrees, apprenticeships, and technical or vocational schools.

Some examples of career areas where specific training is needed: dental assisting, automotive, criminal justice, culinary, practical nursing, occupational therapy assisting, and construction trades.

Certificate programs vary in requirements necessary for completion as well as the credit hours that are earned. Many programs offer the opportunity of a paid internship or apprenticeship that serves as a capstone requirement before students enter the workforce. GRCC offers a variety of these programs. Students can find information on their educational offerings here:

<http://www.grcc.edu/schoolofworkforcedevelopment/educationalofferings>

Other websites that may be helpful for researching these opportunities:

- www.going-pro.com
- www.doleta.gov
- www.miconstructioncareers.org
- <https://www.usajobs.gov/>

MILITARY INFORMATION

Most people who join the military today do so for very practical reasons. As with any career, the military comes with both benefits and disadvantages. The military offers jobs, education, training, travel, good pay, security, benefits, and early retirement. Life in the military may include strict discipline, constant moving, and personal danger in the event of war. Make certain that you investigate your enlistment carefully and get all promises in writing. Understand everything in the enlistment contract.

RECRUITERS:

AIR FORCE	Patrick D. Groff, TSgt, USAF 2090 Celebration Dr. NE #116 Grand Rapids, MI 49525	patrick.groff@us.af.mil (616) 363-7608
ARMY	Staff Sergeant Aaron Garner 2090 Celebration Dr. NE #112 Grand Rapids, MI 49525	aaron.l.garner4.mil@mail.mil (616) 364-8434
MARINE CORPS	Fatima Ahmed 2090 Celebration Dr. NE #108 Grand Rapids, 49525	Fatima.Ahmed@marines.usmc.mil (616) 363-3294
NAVY	Flikkema, George M HT1(SW/AW) TAS 2090 Celebration Dr. NE #116 Grand Rapids, MI 49525	(616) 363-3846 George.m.flikkema@navy.mil
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	Paul Nickelson 1200 44 th St., S.W. Wyoming, MI 49509	Paul.r.nickelson.mil@mail.mil (616) 249-2626
AIR NATIONAL GUARD	3545 Mustang Ave Springfield, MI 49037	(269) 969-3239

MILITARY ACADEMY APPLICATION INFORMATION

Entrance to the Academies is **very** competitive. A Congressional nomination is required for all except the Coast Guard. Visit <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33213.pdf> for additional information.
YOU NEED TO APPLY BY THE SPRING OF YOUR JUNIOR YEAR.

CONTACTS:

Director of Admissions
U. S. Military Academy
Building 606
West Point, NY 10996
(845) 938-4041

Dean of Admissions
U. S. Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
(410) 293-4361

Director of Admissions
U. S. Coast Guard Academy
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-8103
(800) 883-8724

Director of Admissions
Wiley Hall
US Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
(866) 546-4778

United States Air Force Academy
HQ USAFA/RRS
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2300
USAF Academy, CO 80840
(800) 443-9266

Websites:

U.S. Military Academy <http://admissions.usma.edu>

U.S. Naval Academy <http://www.usna.edu/admissions>

U.S. Air Force Academy <http://academyadmissions.com>

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy <http://usmma.edu/admissions>

U.S. Coast Guard Academy <http://www.cga.edu/apply>

U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require congressional nominations.

To pursue congressional nominations, see the information below for contacting your US Senators and US Representative. **Pay careful attention to specific deadlines!**

US Senators

1. **Debbie Stabenow (D)** <http://www.stabenow.senate.gov/services/for-students/academy-nominations>
2. **Gary Peters (D)** <https://www.peters.senate.gov/services/academy-nominations>

US Representative

Peter Meijer (R) <https://meijer.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>

POST SECONDARY RESEARCH WEBSITES

ACT

www.actstudent.org

This is the student site for ACT. This contains useful college information and search features.

Big Future College Board

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Planning for college doesn't have to be stressful. Our tools can help you find the right school for you. Compare colleges, explore majors, and research careers.

Career Cruising

www.careercruising.com

The school selector allows students to do college searches using a number of different variables: location, size, athletics, majors, etc. A personalized list will be created for the student. This website also offers a keyword search for individual colleges which offers admissions selectivity; tuition, room and board costs; requirements; etc.

College Board

<https://www.collegeboard.org>

SAT, PSAT, AP Testing Information; Search for Colleges by Location, Major and by Name; Compare Two College Side by Side, Store College Info. In Your Own Personal File; Get Quick College Information/Profiles that Include: Addresses, Website Info., Phone Numbers, Admissions Info., Application Fee, Test Requirements, Housing, Student Enrollment, Student Body, Academic Support Services, Campus & Student Life, Activities and Sports, Majors and Academics, Most Popular Majors, AP Information, Costs and Financial Aid, International Student Information.

College Opportunity On-Line Locator

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Links to over 9,000 colleges, universities, and tech/trade schools. You can search for a college based on location, program, and degree offerings.

College Program

<http://www.campusprogram.com>

This site not only searches for college programs by state, but also allows you to find colleges by specific career fields, majors, and occupations.

College View

<http://www.collegeview.com>

College search/directories, virtual advisor, request info, search by major/location etc., campus tours, college apps

Campus Tours

<http://www.ecampustours.com>

Offers virtual college tours of over 1300 college campuses

Fast Web

<http://www.fastweb.com>

Go College

<http://www.gocollege.com>

This site links to colleges, distance learning, financial aid and more.

Going Pro in Michigan

www.going-pro.com

This program was created to elevate the perception of professional trades in Michigan and showcase opportunities in a variety of growing careers. The need for professional trade talent in Michigan has never been greater. These highly skilled individuals are in extraordinary demand for careers in healthcare, info tech, advanced manufacturing, construction, and automotive.

Khan Academy

<http://www.khanacademy.org>

This is a free website that allows the user to learn about numerous subjects. It provides a wealth of subject specific information, especially as an online math aid. It can also be used in test prep for the SAT.

Michigan Postsecondary Handbook

<http://michigan.gov/mistudentaid>

This site offers comprehensive information, compiled by the State of Michigan, about all the postsecondary institutions. Once on the website, you need to click on 'Scholarships and Grants,' then 'Planning for College,' then scroll down to 'Michigan Postsecondary Handbook.'

Naviance

www.naviance.com

Naviance makes it easier than ever for students to answer the questions that will shape their future: Who am I? What do I want to be? How will I get there? and How will I succeed? The new design delivers the power of Naviance to students' fingertips with tools that personalize and simplify the college and career planning process. The career planning and assessment tools in Naviance allow students to realize their strengths, goals, knowledge, values, and interests in future careers, to help them work toward a path that is inspiring to them.

Peterson's Guide to Colleges

<http://www.petersons.com>

Test preparation, college search, help with essay writing and resume writing, info about on-line degree programs, career education, summer programs, on-line bookstore for books on careers, colleges, financial aid and more.

Princeton Review Online

<http://www.princetonreview.com>

Ranks schools, provides information on test prep, careers, financial aid and much more.

US News & World Reports

<http://www.usnews.com>

Rankings of colleges in a variety of different areas (examples include certain majors, best college values), statistics on 1,400 schools, how to get in to college, where to start and much more.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Completing Applications

Most colleges prefer to have applications submitted online via their websites. Students should check the colleges' timelines for admissions requirements and deadlines. Students using the Common Application should see detailed information below.

Applications are not complete until ALL parts are RECEIVED by the college. The student is responsible for checking to make sure the college has received the application, any fees, the transcript, and recommendations (if applicable).

Please notify your counselor about deadlines for both applications and scholarships. Allow enough time for time-sensitive material to reach colleges in the mail as well as adequate time for any recommendations to be written. Counselors and teachers should be given at least two weeks to complete any forms and letters of recommendation.

Sending Transcripts

Students must register online through the Parchment website (www.parchment.com) and complete the steps there for requesting and delivering official transcripts to colleges. When students create accounts, they can also request their transcripts for "self-view." This can be helpful when completing applications.

Transcripts are matched to students using full legal name and date of birth. Students must use their full legal names when registering on the Parchment website. They should verify that they have entered all information correctly, especially birthdate, year started high school, and year completing high school. If this information is incorrect, the transcript may not be sent when requested.

Test Scores

When registering for the ACT/SAT, it is important students identify up to four schools for which they show interest in attending so that official scores are sent to those institutions. Otherwise, students will be charged an additional fee by ACT and SAT for official scores requested and sent after testing. **If you are applying to a school TEST OPTIONAL and you do not want your SAT/ACT scores on your transcript, please let your counselor know so they can be removed.**

Common Application

Some colleges and universities require students to use the Common Application. Students should begin with the college or university's website to determine if the Common Application must be used. Students applying with the Common Application will use the website (www.commonapp.org) and indicate the counselor and recommenders who receive the online forms to submit on their behalf.

Upcoming ACT and SAT Test Dates

ACT Test Dates & Deadlines

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	ACT Scores Available
April 17th, 2021	March 12 th	April 27 th
June 12 th , 2021	May 7 th	June 22 nd
July 17 th , 2021	June 18 th	July 27 th

SAT Test Dates & Deadlines

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	SAT Scores Available
March 13 th , 2021	February 12 th	March 26 th
May 8 th , 2021	April 8 th	May 21 st
June 5 th , 2021	May 6 th	July 14 th

Source: <https://www.higherscorestestprep.com/>

Free Test Prep:

<https://academy.act.org>
www.khanacademy.com
www.collegeboard.org
www.march2success.com
www.kaptest.com/sat/free/sat-practice

Superscoring:

More and more colleges are allowing applicants to use superscoring for admissions. Learn more by visiting <https://blog.prepscholar.com/which-colleges-superscore-the-sat>.

Colleges in Michigan: GPA & SAT Tiers

GPA Averages of college freshman class based on information found on institutions' websites. Average SAT is estimated based on ACT information on institutions' websites and converted through The College Board's concordance chart. To verify information is accurate, contact the admissions office.

Michigan College Average Requirements Worksheet

*Open Admissions	Avg. GPA 2.5-2.8 Avg. SAT 860-1010	2.8-3.2 940-1120	3.3-3.5 1060-1230	3.5-3.8 1130-1380	3.8-4.0 1350-1600
<p>Community Colleges No minimum GPA & ACT requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alpena CC Baker College Bay College Delta College Glen Oaks CC Gogebic CC Grand Rapids CC Henry Ford CC Jackson CC Kalamazoo Valley CC Kellogg CC Kirtland CC Lake Michigan College Lansing CC Macomb CC Mid-Michigan CC Monroe County CC Mott CC Muskegon CC North Central Michigan College Northwestern Michigan College Oakland CC Schoolcraft College Southwestern Michigan College St. Clair County CC Washtenaw CC Wayne County CC West Shore CC 	    	            	         	      	  

Source: <https://www.smores.com/app/attachments/download/5a2d813ffcaf1d62010e479e>

MICHIGAN SCHOOLS COMPARISON

<u>School</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>ACT mean</u>	<u>Rdg/Math (SAT mean)</u>
Adrian College	3.23	23	1140
Albion College	3.47	23	568/560 (1128)
Alma College	3.53	23	574/560 (1134)
Andrews University	3.59	25	599/600 (1199)
Aquinas College	3.55	24	590/660 (1250)
Calvin College	3.8	27	625/640 (1265)
Central Michigan University	3.41	23	559/540 (1099)
Concordia University	3.56	26	620/580 (1200)
Cornerstone University	3.6	22	573/510 (1083)
Davenport University	3.2	NA	NA
Eastern Michigan University	3.3	22	500/550 (1050)
Ferris State University	3.38	22	540/520 (1060)
Finlandia University	2.89	21	450/470 (920)
Grace Bible College	3.03	19	500/480 (980)
Grand Rapids Community College	2.9	20	NA
Grand Valley State University	3.6	24	580/570 (1150)
Hillsdale College	3.89	31	693/670 (1363)
Hope College	3.86	27	610/600 (1210)
Kalamazoo College	3.84	28	640/620 (1260)
Kendall College of Art and Design	2.93	19	NA
Kettering University	3.66	27	620/650 (1270)
Kuyper College	2.98	17	500/460 (960)
Lake Superior State University	3.26	22	1110
Lawrence Tech. University	3.44	25	570/590 (1160)
Madonna University	3.3	22	540/530 (1070)
Marygrove College	NA	NA	NA
Michigan State University	3.75	26	610/600 (1210)
Michigan Tech. University	3.72	27	613/640 (1253)
Northern Michigan University	3.18	22	540/510 (1050)
Northwood University	3.31	22	540/550 (1090)
Oakland University	3.47	24	560/563 (1123)
Olivet College	3.18	21	520/490 (1010)
Rochester College	3.16	21	510/490 (1000)
Saginaw Valley State University	3.4	23	1092
Siena Heights University	3.2	21	1110
Spring Arbor University	3.46	23	1140
University of Detroit- Mercy	3.56	24	574/580 (1154)
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor	3.88	32	735/700 (1435)
University of Michigan- Dearborn	3.6	25	591/600 (1191)
University of Michigan- Flint	3.4	23	551/530 (1081)
Wayne State University	3.36	25	560/550 (1110)
Western Michigan University	3.37	23	548/530 (1078)

Sources: <http://www.prepscholar.com> January 2021

Contact information and other important facts can be found on all Michigan colleges and universities here: https://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2011/09/an_a_to_z_list_of_michigan_col.html

BEYOND GENERAL ADMISSIONS

When researching colleges students may want to look into specific opportunities, services, or programs that would meet their own unique needs.

High Achievers: Many universities offer options that students may wish to explore such as Honors Colleges or Residential Colleges within the college or university.

Transfer Students: Students planning to begin at a local community college and transfer to a four year college or university, may want to look into the Michigan Transfer Network (www.michigantransfernet.org). This tool allows students to view transfer course equivalencies between many Michigan colleges and universities. It can be helpful for students in choosing courses that will transfer between schools.

Out of State Options: Students wishing to go to college out of state, but at in state tuition, should check out the Midwest Student Exchange program at <http://www.mhec.org/MidwestStudentExchangeProgram>

Students with Special Needs: Students who have required additional services while students in high school may wish to look into any programs or support services which colleges may offer.

Specific Program Requirements: Some programs may require a specific GPA, additional application, an audition, portfolio, or interview for admission. Be sure to read all the details of specific programs you apply for and meet the deadlines.

Highly Selective/Ivy League Schools: Students choosing to apply to the most competitive schools should begin researching the admissions process early. Admissions procedures, testing, and deadlines will vary by school. Be sure to let your counselor know about your interest in specific colleges or universities.

College Athletes: Students interested in participating in athletics at the college level should visit the NCAA Eligibility Center website <http://www.eligibilitycenter.org> for information about NCAA Division I and II requirements; and www.playnaia.org for information about NAIA requirements. Students registering with either of the eligibility centers should request their transcript to be sent directly to the eligibility center through the Parchment website (www.parchment.com).

Testing Out: Students should check with the colleges they apply to regarding how they can obtain credit through testing. Each college has its own policy on AP and CLEP testing, including the credit they award, scores for passing, and the course equivalencies that can be met.

Articulation: Students should check the course description book on the RHS website for detailed information on classes offered that articulate for college credit.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

Financial Aid Websites/Information:

FAFSA on the Web

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>

Federal Student Aid

<http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>

Financial Aid Information Page

<http://www.finaid.org>

Paying for College in Michigan

<http://www.michigan.gov/studentaid>

Nat'l Assoc of Financial Aid Administration

<http://www.nasfaa.org>

CSS Profile: Some schools in Michigan also require the CSS Profile when determining financial aid. They are listed in the chart below. There is a cost for each profile sent. Instructions for completing the profile can be found at: <https://student.collegeboard.org/profile>

CSS Code	Name	State	PROFILE	Int'l PROFILE	Noncustodial PROFILE	IDOC
1001	Adrian College	MI	Yes	No	No	No
1010	Alma College	MI	No	Yes	No	No
1295	Hillsdale College	MI	Yes	No	No	No
1753	Madonna U: St Mary's College	MI	Yes	No	No	No
1452	Marygrove College	MI	Yes	No	No	No
1595	Olivet College	MI	Yes	No	No	No
1719	Siena Heights University	MI	Yes	Yes	No	No
1839	Univ of Michigan	MI	Yes	No	Yes	No

IDOC= International Documentation Service

Scholarship Search Engines:

A detailed list of scholarship search engines and other opportunities is sent to seniors and their parents through Family Access and Schoology several times throughout senior year.

Cappex

www.cappex.com

College Answer

<http://www.salliemae.com/plan-for-college>

Fast Web

<http://www.fastweb.com>

Find Tuition

<http://findtuition.com>

List of Free Scholarship Searches

http://www.college-scholarships.com/free_scholarship_searches.htm

Scholarship Search

<http://www.scholarships.com>

Scholarships 360

<http://www.scholarships360.org>

This is a website dedicated to finding great scholarship opportunities for students. It offers an introduction to student loans, a section devoted to first generation college students, an article about tools for need-based financial aid, and information on creating an ACT/SAT testing plan that works.

Scholly

www.scholly.com

Zinch

www.zinch.com

College Scholarships

Develop your Scholarship Strategy

Most student aid comes in the form of federal education loans and grants from colleges. However, scholarships — which don't have to be paid back — get a huge amount of attention from students and their families. If you decide to invest your time in a search for scholarships, it's important to have an organized system to find, apply for, and win scholarship money. It's also best to start early.

Start with a Personal Inventory

Most of the information you are asked for on a scholarship search questionnaire is easy to come up with — year in school, citizenship, state of residence, religion, ethnic background, disability, military status, employer and membership organizations.

Beyond those questions, you have to give some thought to your academic, extracurricular and career plans. You should ask yourself:

- Do I want to participate in a competition? If so, what are my talents and interests?
- What subject do I plan to major in?
- What career do I plan to pursue?
- Do I want to apply for all types of aid or only scholarships?

Your answers to these questions help determine your scholarship eligibility. Take your time brainstorming and don't overlook anything. The more personal characteristics that you discover, the more scholarships you could potentially apply.

Research Local Scholarships First

Begin with your high school counseling office. Your counselors know about scholarships for students graduating from your high school. They may also be aware of scholarships for residents of your town, county and state.

Your next stop should be the college aid section of your public library. Most libraries have a number of books about financial aid, including scholarship guides such as our [*Scholarship Handbook*](#). They also may have information on local scholarships.

Then it's time to start looking at national scholarships such as those sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Gates Millennium Scholars, Intel Science Talent Search, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program. You can also learn more about the [scholarship competitions we cosponsor in science, math and technology](#). Use your library, or check online.

Check Membership Organizations and Employers

You should never have to pay for scholarship information. Organizations of all types and sizes sponsor scholarships — leave no stone unturned. Explore categories you might not have considered, such as religious, community service, fraternal, military, union and professional.

And don't forget your parents. Many large companies offer scholarships or tuition programs for children of employees. If you are uncertain, ask your parents to check with their human resources departments.

Don't overlook student jobs. Employers such as fast food chains, department stores and supermarkets often give scholarships. Awards related to student employment can come from unexpected sources. For example, there are a number of scholarships for golf caddies.

Use a Free Scholarship Search Service

A scholarship search company collects information on hundreds of awards and compares your student characteristics with scholarship restrictions. Based on your answers to a questionnaire, you receive a list of possible scholarships. It is up to you to decide which ones to try for.

You should never have to pay for scholarship information. If you're asked to pay a fee for "exclusive" scholarship leads, there's a good chance your scholarship service is really a scholarship scam.

Here are some free scholarship search services:

[Scholarship Search](#)

[Fastweb](#)

[Sallie Mae](#)

Contact your State Department of Higher Education

Please visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid>. Michigan has many programs that help fund educational opportunities.

- [Children of Veterans Tuition Grant](#)
- [Dual Enrollment](#)
- [Fostering Futures Scholarship](#)
- [GEAR UP College Day Scholarship](#)
- [Michigan Competitive Scholarship](#)
- [Michigan GEAR UP \(MI GEAR UP\)](#)
- [Michigan Tuition Grant](#)
- [Police and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Grant](#)
- [Teacher Loan Forgiveness](#)
- [Tuition Incentive Program](#)

Research Institutional Scholarships

Since the vast majority of all scholarship money is disbursed by colleges, it makes sense to research what kinds of scholarships are available at the colleges that interest you. Check out college websites, catalogs and financial aid offices for this information. Institutional awards can be offered on a university-wide basis, or within a particular college or major. Eligibility for such awards can be based on merit, financial need, intended major, ethnicity or a variety of other factors. Here are some questions you might want to ask about these awards:

- Are scholarships awarded automatically if a student matches certain criteria, such as grade point average (GPA) or SAT® score?
- What is the application procedure? What materials are required?
- Is the award renewable? What are the requirements to maintain the award?

Scholarship Application Tips

Once you've created a list of scholarships that interest you, read about [how to apply for a scholarship](#) for advice on creating a winning application.

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