

# Path to Scholarship Success

Starting the scholarship application process with a successful strategy in place is key. Knowing how to **PLAN**, **RESEARCH**, **APPLY** and **TRACK** applications will increase your chances of earning valuable awards. **UCanGo2.org** offers resources and publications to help as you **plan**, **prepare** and **pay** for your education after high school.

## PLAN

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, in your senior year of high school and each year you need financial aid for education expenses. Learn more at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov).
- Investigate the cost of attendance at the school you plan to attend, and determine how much you'll need to cover your expenses. [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) can help you find the cost of higher education institutions nationwide.
- Evaluate your resources to determine how you'll pay for college. Consider savings, your current earnings, financial aid and any scholarships you may have already won.
- Create a resume that lists your talents, accomplishments, and awards and provide it to those you ask to write letters of recommendation.

## RESEARCH

- Scholarships are awarded based on a number of factors, including family ethnicity, sports, community service, grades, hobbies, test scores, residency, financial need, skills, leadership, essays, college majors and more.
- Search for scholarships from your prospective colleges, tribal entities, employers, local organizations, Google, books and more.
- Ask your school counselor for scholarship resources.
- Use legitimate scholarship search sites like those found on the next page and at [UCanGo2.org](https://UCanGo2.org) and [OKcollegestart.org](https://OKcollegestart.org).
- Align your search to your characteristics and your college and career goals.

## APPLY

- Read through the application and any requirements for transcripts, essays, and letters of recommendation. Be sure to request/complete these items early.
- Follow instructions, review and proof your application so you're sure there are no mistakes. Ask someone else to proof it, too.
- Write an essay that's captivating, sets you apart, and is original. Take time to proofread and ask a teacher or counselor to proofread it, as well. Consider the guidance available in our [Scholarship Essay Tips](#) publication.
- Keep copies of your applications, essays, and letters of recommendation. You'll use the same general information on most applications, so copies will come in handy. Revising an essay you've already used is a good way to save time and improve upon what you've already created.
- Watch out for scholarship scams! Read the fine print, beware of guarantees, never pay to submit an application and protect your personal information. Learn more about scams at [ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](https://ftc.gov/scholarshipscams).

## TRACK

- Make note of all requirements to ensure you're applying for scholarships for which you're eligible.
- Send thank you notes to those who participated in your application process and to the scholarship providers, if you win the award.
- Use a [Scholarship Tracking Sheet](#) to organize and keep track of completed applications and upcoming deadlines.
- Understand how a scholarship may impact other financial aid you've been awarded. Check with the college financial aid office if you have questions.



## Scholarship Searches

UCanGo2.org  
OKcollegestart.org  
OCCF.org  
BigFuture.collegeboard.org  
Bold.org  
Cappex.com  
CareerOneStop.org  
College-Scholarships.com  
CollegeXpress.com  
FastWeb.com  
GoingMerry.com  
MyScholly.com  
Petersons.com  
SallieMae.com  
ScholarshipOwl.com  
Scholarships.com  
Scholarships360.org  
StudentScholarshipSearch.com  
Study.com  
Unigo.com

## Tribal Websites

AStribe.com (Absentee Shawnee)  
Bahkhoje.com (Iowa)  
CheyenneandArapaho-nsn.gov  
Cherokee.org  
Chickasaw.net  
ChoctawNation.com  
ComancheNation.com  
DelawareTribe.org  
KawNation.com  
KickapooTribeOfOklahoma.com  
MiamiNation.com  
MuscogeeNation.com (Muscogee/Creek)  
MyCaddoNation.com  
OsageNation-nsn.gov  
PawneeNation.org  
PeoriaTribe.com  
Ponca-nsn.gov  
Potawatomi.org  
QuapawTribe.com  
SacandFoxNation-nsn.gov  
SCTribe.com (Seneca-Cayuga)  
Shawnee-nsn.gov  
Sno-nsn.gov (Seminole)  
WichitaTribe.com  
Wyandotte-Nation.org



Native American students: If your tribe isn't listed here, visit the Oklahoma History Center website <https://www.okhistory.org/research/aitribes>. Members should also contact their tribal office for more specific information.



Visit [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) and [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) to find scholarships and to learn about scholarship success.

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