

Tips for Applying for Private Scholarships



The following information is regarding private scholarships –scholarships not specifically affiliated with RRCC. RRCC does not specifically endorse any private scholarships or organizations listed on its website. However, we’ve curated a [list of past and potential private scholarship donors](#). Still, we emphasize that students should take precautions when sharing their personal information, just as one would in any other situation.

- Never give out your sensitive personal information, including Social Security numbers, bank information, credit card information, computer logins or passwords. We have pre-screened the donors listed on our website, making them aware that they may not request any of this information nor payment from our students, to which they have agreed. Should a donor on our list ask you for a piece of sensitive information, please notify our Scholarship Coordinator immediately.
- Directory Assistance (4-1-1) can usually confirm if a business’ telephone number is registered.
- Private scholarships abound. Some offer better odds than others.
 - The Essay – the most time-consuming but usually provides the best odds; this type of application typically found when you directly access a donor’s website.
 - Promotional – typically requires a making a video of a company’s product or service
 - Contests/Drawings – easy to enter, which means the odds are not good; your contact information is likely to be used to try to sell you their product or service; they may sell your contact info to other companies.
 - Profile – A student creates a profile on a site that allows potential donors to view/access their contact information.
- In addition to scouring local resources, check out one or two scholarship search engines. Some popular ones include the following: [Fast Web](#), [College Board](#), [Unigo](#), and [Scholly](#).
 - Use keywords to search for opportunities that are more specific to you, such as your major, your geographic location, or a hobby, for example.
- Prior to writing your scholarship essay, clean up your social media. When anyone searches for you, what they find should be professional (or at least not offensive).

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- Create a separate e-mail account specifically to receive all scholarship information. This can help you keep scholarship opportunities organized, and can help you make sure you are in the right mindset each time you log in.
- Create a scholarship calendar as well. On it, you will list each scholarship you would like to apply for, the application deadlines, the requirements, the type of scholarship and the amounts. This will help you prioritize where and when you will apply and be a quick reference if you receive a scholarship offer. You can confirm it is an opportunity you actually applied to, not a scam.
- Collect recommendation letters and transcripts ahead of time.
- Carefully read the full application prior to starting, to make sure you have everything you will need to finish the application.

The Essay

- Contact the [RRCC Writing Center](#) to brainstorm ideas for your essay as well as to edit your rough draft.
- Save your essay to your desktop. If the system crashes or the scholarship site goes down, you do not want to lose your work!
- Keep a copy of your essay for future applications that require an essay. Tailor as needed.
- Always keep your audience in mind.
- Talk about what draws you to your college path, as well as what draws you to the specific college you will attend.
- What are your educational and career goals? Be as specific as you can.
- What past struggles have you overcome and how might your response to them be applicable to your education?
- What leadership skills do you have? Give an example(s).
- How will your knowledge and skills gained in college benefit your community?
- Use a legible 12-point font.
- Attend an RRCC Private Scholarship workshop (TBA) to review this information as a group and ask questions!
- Supplemental AI proofreading resources:
 - [Grammarly](#)
 - [Quill Bot](#) (multilingual)