



Compton Unified School District

Office of Educational Services

College & Career Services Division

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Strategizing to Find Scholarships

1. Plan to apply for as many scholarships as possible.

- a. Never too early to start saving scholarship money. A lot of opportunity open as soon as 9th grade.
- b. Cast a wide net into the sea of free money, don't just apply to a couple.
- c. Large amount scholarships are too competitive because to many focus on those. So don't limit you search just to the big bucks. It can be easier to win various smaller amount scholarships that can add up.

2. There are scholarships FOR EVERYTHING and EVERYONE.

- a. Review the requirements: Do they require an essay, a short response, a letter of recommendation? Some scholarships just require an application.
- b. Are you good with technology? Look for scholarships that accept pictures and/or video submission instead of writing assignment.
- c. Various scholarships based on your interests, talents, skills,
 - i. Ex. Athletes, Left handed students, students who speak a language other than English, Community Service, Leadership, Art, submitting snapchat videos, what's your favorite ice cream, etc.

3. Develop a scholarship portfolio, to have reusable materials accessible.

- a. Recycle your personal statements of various word counts (350, 500, 700, etc)
- b. Have multiple copies of their letter of recommendations, updated transcripts, college test scores (SAT, ACT, PSAT, PreACT, AP), etc
- c. Use websites like GoMerry to complete one general application to use and send to all scholarships participating in their database.

4. Leverage schoolwork and class time

- a. Use scholarships as a study break. Spend at least 30 minutes to 1 hour a week looking for scholarships and at least 1 hour working on an applications. Time is more manageable if you break the work load into smaller pieces. Hint: Best times to work on scholarships are when you have substitute teachers where you can visit your college center or counseling office to research.
- b. Plan ahead for scholarship deadlines by setting reminders on your phones, to notify you of the dates.

5. Learn from past scholarship winners

- a. Visit the website of various scholarships and read the biography of past winners. Learn from their method so that you can better tailor your application to the scope of the scholarship. Bonus: Many websites post the winning essays.
- b. Using lunch or afterschool tutoring opportunities to get feedback on your essays.

6. Most importantly, search in your neighborhood.

- a. Search for your high school's alumni association that have scholarships for seniors.
- b. Local College/university fraternity/sorority scholarships
- c. Local business like grocery stores, restaurants, business (ex. McDonalds, Taco Bell, Superior Grocers, Dells,

My Scholarship List

Name and amount of scholarship	Who is eligible?	Application process	Requirements	Deadline

Scholarship Resources

Search Engines

Fast Web

Unigo

Scholarships.com

College Board.com

GoMerry.com

Diverse-Identity Scholarships

United Negro College Fund

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

McDonald's HACER®

National Scholarship

Asian & Pacific Islander
American Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Blog Lists

MADELF

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN LUCILLE
ROYBAL-ALLARD Student Resource
Guide

Dreamer Scholarships

The Dream.US

Dreamers Roadmap (phone app)

CA Dream Act

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

Admission Scholarships

Questbridge

Posse Foundation

Gates Millennium Scholars

National Corporate Scholarships

Coca-Cola Scholarship

Ronaldo McDonald House Charities Scholarship

Colgate Scholarship

Dell Scholarship

Athletic Scholarships

Footlocker Scholar Athletes Scholarship

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics