

Scholarships



www.chabotcollege.edu/finaid

Scholarships

- Free and under-utilized
 - Different scholarships:
 - Merit Based
 - Talent
 - Major related
 - Community service
 - Public
 - Private
 - Miscellaneous
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Scholarship Success

- Time management
 - Email etiquette
 - Research
 - Organize and compile
 - References
 - Essays
 - Transcripts and your GPA
 - Archive
 - Communication
 - Links to Explore
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Time Management

- ❑ Scholarship research and applications require a lot of individual time and energy.
- ❑ Identify **your** best method of organization
- ❑ Plan for deadlines and important dates
 - Scholarship deadlines
 - Transcript request
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Essay writing
 - Mailing documents



Time Management

□ Scholarship timeline

- **Sept to Dec**-Scholarship research
- **Dec to May**-Scholarships open for applicants
- **May to Aug**-Submit required paper work (not included in the application)
 - Transcript and SAR
- **June to Aug**-Scholarship finalists selected
- **Aug to Sept**-Scholarships awarded
Communication is critical with our office and the provider

Some scholarships have a shorter timeline than the one mentioned above



Email Etiquette

- Why is email important?
 - Most scholarships are now being submitted online, very few paper applications
 - All require that you submit your contact information
 - Email - make sure it is a **professional** email, preferably an email with your name
 - Avoid anything vulgar or too cutesy
 - janedoe@yahoo.com vs. lilsexyjane@yahoo.com
 - Use your email to compile scholarships you find
 - GDoc's-Gmail, Notepad, Calendar reminders
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Research

- Go online and find scholarships you believe you might be interested in applying to.
 - **www.fastweb.com**
 - Search Keywords:
 - Your major
 - Academic, athletic or artistic talents
 - Underrepresented groups (minority, women, etc)
 - Community service/leadership
 - Geographical (California residents, graduates from Gridley HS)
 - Ethnic / Cultural background
 - Financial need
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Organize and Compile

- Organize
 - Scholarship Categories
 - Deadlines (always submit one month before deadline)
 - Majors
 - Eligibility
 - Other Information
 - Resume
 - References
 - Electronically or Binder
 - Email vs. Binder-depends on your organizational style/preference
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References

Personal

- character references
 - Community service
 - Former employers
 - Mentor
 - Religious

Academic

- Professors from previous courses
 - Prof. from your dept. if the scholarship is major specific
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References Cont.

- What to provide your references?
 - Provide resume
 - Provide description of scholarship-what type of scholarship is it?
 - Give them a deadline. Let them know your timeline.
 - **Do not:**
 - Ask last minute
 - During finals or holidays
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Essays

- ❑ Brainstorm, create, review, revise, and save
 - ❑ Brainstorm - who you are, dreams, why you need the \$, etc. use sample prompts
 - ❑ Create sample outlines or sample essay templates and work from there (use last years question)
 - ❑ Review criteria and your essay draft
 - ❑ Revise - ask a prof. or someone to help you revise for grammar and flow
 - ❑ Save your final draft (in your email or scholarship binder)
 - ❑ Check this website out for some essay help and scholarship essay prompts:
 - http://essayinfo.com/essays/scholarship_essay.php
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Transcripts and your GPA

- ❑ Most scholarships will ask you to submit an official copy of your transcript.
 - School must provide in a sealed envelope; send it exactly as you receive it (do not open envelope)
 - ❑ If you have attended various institutions or are currently attending more than one, communicate with funding agency and ask if they want both transcripts or just one.
 - ❑ GPA
 - Competitive scholarships may require 2.5 min. GPA to apply but most applicants may have a 3.5 GPA. If you have a weak GPA, work on your references, and your essay. **Do not give up!**
 - It's important to ask the scholarship provider what GPA they will be assessing
 - ❑ Cumulative or semester GPA?
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Archive

- ❑ Keep copies of everything you submit.
 - ❑ If you send important documents by mail, certify the mail and make sure you are able to receive a “return receipt”.
 - ❑ Make a copy of scholarship check for your tax records. (you may need to claim as income per IRS regulations)
 - ❑ **Why?** You will be reassured that your documents made it to the destination.
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Communication

- ❑ Follow up on scholarships you've already applied to
 - ❑ Identify the organization/program manager for your scholarship
 - ❑ Name, telephone number, email
 - ❑ After you've been selected as a winner, ask about the next steps in the process
 - Send Thank You note!
 - ❑ Communicate with Financial Aid about your scholarship (copy of award letter, final amount of award)
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Links to Explore

- ❑ www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - ❑ www.chabotcollege.edu/finaid
 - Updated periodically!
 - Direct Scholarship links
 - ❑ www.finaid.org
 - This award-winning site has grown into the most comprehensive source of student financial aid information, advice and tools -- on or off the web.
 - ❑ Financial Aid Office of future college
 - when transferring to 4 year school
 - ❑ Gmail and GDocs (Google)
 - ❑ Essay site
 - http://essayinfo.com/essays/scholarship_essay.php
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Chabot College Financial Aid Office

Office Hours:

Mon. and Thurs: 9:00am-5:00pm

Tues. and Wed: 11:00am-7:00pm

Fri: 9:00am-12:00 noon

Phone

(510) 723-6748

Fax

(510) 723-7103

Website:

www.chabotcollege.edu/finaid
