

Scholarships

Where to Look!

JMU Scholarships:

- ◇ Check out our website at: <http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/scholarships>
- ◇ Check with the department head of your particular major.
- ◇ Apply for our office's upperclass scholarships (applications are available online at: <http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/scholarships/appinstruct.html>)

Private Scholarship Search Checklist:

- ◇ Check with your college or guidance counselor's office for the latest information
- ◇ Search the internet with these free search services:

www.chelafinancial.com
www.scholarships.com
www.collegeboard.com
www.salliemae.com
www.collegenet.com/mach25

www.collegequest.com
www.scholaraid.com
www.freschinfo.com
www.finaid.org
www.fastaid.com

Over 85% of scholarships received are from student's home communities. Check out these areas in your community for ideas:

- Check with civic organizations. (Elk, Rotary, Ruritan, Woman's Clubs, American Legion, Masons, PTA, etc.)
 - Check with religious organizations.
 - Trust Departments of Banks.
 - Check with employers of family members or large corporations in your community.
- ◇ Check out our website at: <http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/scholarships/outsideschol.html>
 - ◇ Network! Get the word out that you are looking for scholarships.

Tips for Applying:

- ◇ Be Cautious about scholarship scams! If you have any doubts, avoid it.
- ◇ Pay close attention to deadlines for scholarship applications.
- ◇ In your essays, let your personality shine through. While scholastic achievements are important, they are not the only items considered in most cases.
- ◇ Update your personal resume and send it along with your application.
- ◇ Proofread essays or applications.
- ◇ Send Thank-You notes for any scholarships received, to the donor.
- ◇ Once you receive a scholarship, write to the donor and ask if it can be renewed for future years.

Scholarship Resources at JMU:

- ◇ **Center for Multicultural Student Services Library:** Binder of Scholarship & Internship Opportunities <http://www.blackexcel.org/link4.htm>
- ◇ **Duke Battalion R.O.T.C Scholarships:** For three and four-year ROTC scholarships, which include full tuition, monthly spending money, and book allowances, please visit www.jmu.edu/rotc for more information.
- ◇ **Carrier Library:**
 - The Scholarship Book 1998-99 (LB 2337.2.C37)
 - Kaplan Scholarships 1999 (LB 2338.S347)
 - Study Abroad 1998-99 (LB 2338.S86)
 - Directory of American Scholarships 1999 (LA 2311.C32)
 - Scholarships, Fellowships, & Loans 2000 (LB 2338.F4)
 - and many more...

Scholarships

FAQ's

- **What different types of scholarships are available?**

There are a variety of different types of scholarships, but generally they are separated into two areas Need-based or Merit-based.

- **How do I qualify for Need-based scholarships?**

To be eligible for need-based scholarships at JMU, you must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The government uses this form to calculate an estimated family contribution (EFC). The Financial Aid Office subtracts your EFC from your cost of attendance to determine your financial need. If you are determined to have any amount of financial need, you may be eligible for some need-based scholarships. Visit our Scholarship web page (<http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/scholarships>) for information regarding need-based scholarships, or contact your department to apply for their need-based scholarships.

- **How do I qualify for Merit-based scholarships?**

The major criteria for merit-based scholarships is exceptional academic performance. Other common criteria may be based upon leadership, activity involvement, geographical background, ethnic background, major field and career goals. Pay special attention to deadlines to make sure the donor has nothing to hold against you. At JMU, the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships awards a limited number of merit-based scholarships for incoming freshmen only. Some other departments also award scholarships to incoming freshmen. For returning students, the best place to look for merit-based scholarships is via the Scholarship web page.

- **What scholarships are available to transfer students?**

At JMU, transfer students are eligible for all scholarships available to returning students. Scholarships are generally awarded at the beginning of the academic year, which make sources very limited for mid-year transfers.

- **Typically, what are the deadlines for Upper-class Scholarships?**

Scholarship deadlines are generally in the Spring semester for the upcoming school year with decisions generally made around the end of the Spring semester or early summer.

- **What are some good tips in seeking scholarships through my community?**

The largest percentage of outside scholarships received this past year in our office came through churches, high schools, and organizations such as the Elks and Moose lodges. Also, large companies in your area or your parent's employer may be a great source. A lot of instances, you may not have to be directly associated with an organization to qualify for a scholarship.

- **Where do I start?**

Visit the Office of Financial Aid in Warren Hall, seek scholarships through your community and departments, check out information through the financial aid website, and do your research. It takes a lot of work to get scholarships, but the reward is well worth the time involved.

- **What effect will outside scholarships have on my financial aid package?**

If you have earned any outside scholarships, you are required to notify our office so that the information can be used in calculating your award package. If JMU has met 100 percent of your demonstrated need and subsequently you receive an outside scholarship, one or more of your financial aid sources may need to be adjusted. You can do this online at: <http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/scholarships/outsideschol.html>



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