

Scholarship Guide for Seniors

Step-By-Step Guide to find and apply to the right scholarships for you!

Types of Scholarships

Before you begin to look for scholarships, you need to be aware of the types of scholarships that are available and which types you may qualify for.

Merit-Based

The primary criterion for merit-based scholarships is exceptional academic performance. Other selection criteria may include leadership, extracurricular involvement, and career goals.

Need-Based

The primary criterion for need-based scholarships is a great financial need, proven by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Also known as "Grants."

Pre-Search Preparation

Looking for scholarships will be more manageable if you have outlined information about yourself into a variety of categories. Examples of questions to ask yourself:

What am I planning to study in college?

What have been my greatest academic or leadership achievements?

What regional area do I fall in?

Is my race considered to be a minority group?

Will I be a first-generation college student?

What community service have I participated in?

Do I have a story of a lesson learned from a significant experience in my life?

Set up a document to use during your scholarship search. You can organize this into a running collection of your accomplishments, similar to how professionals use resumes. Input information like scholarship name, website, and deadline date for easy referral.

Finding Local Scholarships

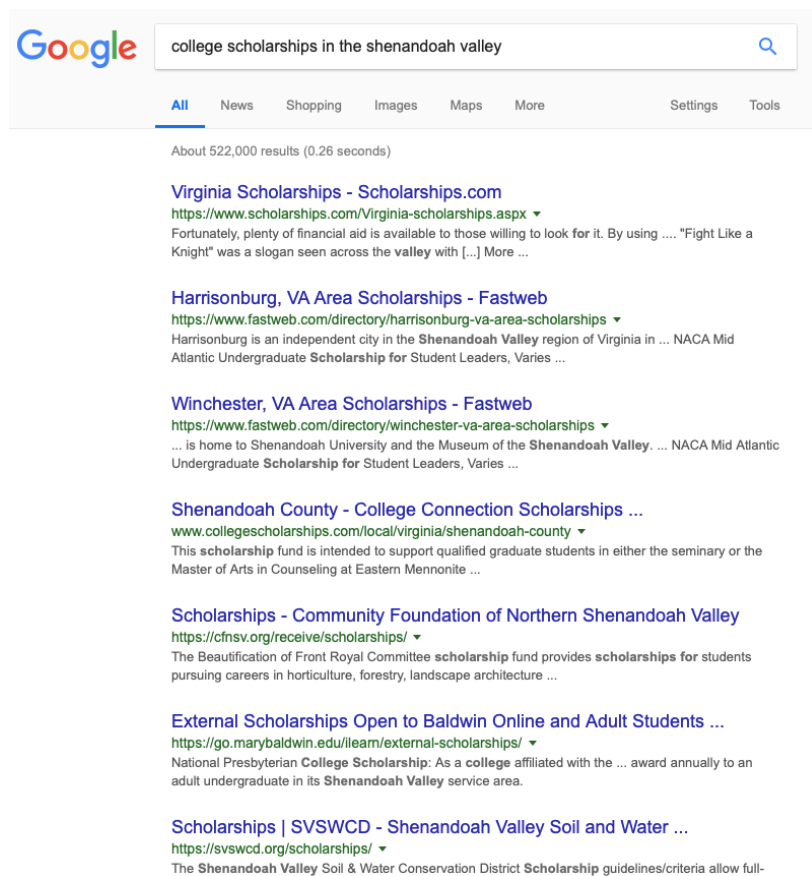
Students should start their search with local scholarships because the narrow criteria provides great opportunity for students in your position.

Check Your Guidance Office: Guidance counselors can offer great advice on finding the perfect college for you and can be knowledgeable about the financial aid process. They may be aware of available scholarships in your community.

Check with Businesses in the Area: Many businesses have scholarships and other financial assistance opportunities open to their employees and children of their employees.

Contact State or Local Agencies: Nearly every state offers scholarships that are specifically intended for residents. You may find scholarships available to minorities, low-income families, nontraditional students, and students seeking careers in high-demand fields.

Online Search Example



The image shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "college scholarships in the shenandoah valley". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "All", "News", "Shopping", "Images", "Maps", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The "All" tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says "About 522,000 results (0.26 seconds)". The search results are listed below, each with a title, a URL, and a brief description.

Virginia Scholarships - Scholarships.com
<https://www.scholarships.com/Virginia-scholarships.aspx>
Fortunately, plenty of financial aid is available to those willing to look for it. By using "Fight Like a Knight" was a slogan seen across the valley with [...] More ...

Harrisonburg, VA Area Scholarships - Fastweb
<https://www.fastweb.com/directory/harrisonburg-va-area-scholarships>
Harrisonburg is an independent city in the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia in ... NACA Mid Atlantic Undergraduate Scholarship for Student Leaders, Varies ...

Winchester, VA Area Scholarships - Fastweb
<https://www.fastweb.com/directory/winchester-va-area-scholarships>
... is home to Shenandoah University and the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. ... NACA Mid Atlantic Undergraduate Scholarship for Student Leaders, Varies ...

Shenandoah County - College Connection Scholarships ...
www.collegescholarships.com/local/virginia/shenandoah-county
This scholarship fund is intended to support qualified graduate students in either the seminary or the Master of Arts in Counseling at Eastern Mennonite ...

Scholarships - Community Foundation of Northern Shenandoah Valley
<https://cfnsv.org/receive/scholarships/>
The Beautification of Front Royal Committee scholarship fund provides scholarships for students pursuing careers in horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture ...

External Scholarships Open to Baldwin Online and Adult Students ...
<https://go.marybaldwin.edu/learn/external-scholarships/>
National Presbyterian College Scholarship: As a college affiliated with the ... award annually to an adult undergraduate in its Shenandoah Valley service area.

Scholarships | SVSWCD - Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water ...
<https://svswcd.org/scholarships/>
The Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship guidelines/criteria allow full-

Start with a simple Google search, like the one pictured to the left. Search for scholarships in the Shenandoah Valley, or be more specific and search for scholarships in your actual city. Take the time and browse through each Google result.

Finding National Scholarships

After determining the local scholarships that match your qualifications, shift your focus to national level awards.

Check University Websites: Visit the financial aid web-page of each university/college that you are applying to. Typically, these schools have merit and need-based scholarships listed for prospective incoming freshmen.

National Scholarship Search Engines: Below is a list of suggested scholarship search engines for your use. Each website will have options for filtering through categories to make your search as narrow or broad as you would like.

<https://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships>

<https://www.fastweb.com>

<https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships>

<https://www.scholarships.com>

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>

Scholarship Guide Recap

- Step 1:** Understand if you are applying for a merit or need-based scholarship.
- Step 2:** Organize your accomplishments and personal information into categories that will be easy for you to refer.
- Step 3:** Start your search on a local level: guidance counselors, local businesses, local agencies, internet search for specific geographic area.
- Step 4:** Search scholarships listed by college/university of choice and national search engines.

Remember to give yourself time when filling out scholarship applications. This process can become very overwhelming and time consuming. Schedule the days and times in advance when you will be able to focus on scholarship applications. You got this!