[10 Tips for Scholarship Applications](https://www.speedyprep.com/blog/10-killer-tips-scholarship-applications/)

1. Identify and Meet the sponsor’s goals.

Who wins scholarships?  The student who best meets the sponsor’s formal and informal requirements.  Therefore, to win a scholarship, you need to meet a sponsor’s goals. As simple as this may seem, many students simply meet the sponsor’s bare requirements and hope for the best.  Do not do this! Read through all the scholarship information watching for details and clues about what the sponsor’s formal and informal requirements.  By meeting the sponsor’s goals you increase you chance of winning exponentially!

2. Participate in extracurricular activities

Surprisingly, most scholarship committees do not simply choose the student with the highest grade point average (GPA) or SAT score.  Instead, most scholarships are equally interested in a student’s extracurricular activities. Are they **involved in their community?**  Do they have an after-school job?  Did they start their own business?  What hobbies do they have?  The scholarship coordinators are interested in giving the award to the **person they consider the most well-rounded student**. Grades are important, but they are only half the story.  Therefore, it is to your advantage to participate in extracurricular activities.  Join a club.  Volunteer at your local library.  Start a business.  Find a hobby.  All these activities will help make you stand out!

3. Watch the deadline like a hawk.

We will never know how much scholarship money is lost simply because the applicant *missed the deadline*.  When students are applying to many scholarships at once it is easy to confuse the deadlines and send the applications on the wrong date.

To avoid this danger, students should keep a calendar either on paper or [**online**](http://www.google.com/calendar/).  On you calendar, write the name of each scholarship in red on its deadline, and in black one week before the deadline.  Try to get scholarship applications in before the black (early) deadline but make *sure* that you get it in before the red (final) deadline.

4. Proofread your application one more time.

How can you increase your chance of winning in *under 5 minutes?* By proofreading your application. Most scholarship committees do not even consider scholarship applications that have major blunders.  Did you get your address right?  Did you get the scholarship name right?  What about the coordinator’s name? Simply spending a little more time can vastly increase your chance of winning.

**5. Search,** Search, SEARCH!

Persistence is the key to getting a scholarship.  Finding good scholarships is often a difficult job. When you have spent two hours looking through scholarships without finding one that’s a good fit, you’ll probably feel like giving up.  Don’t. You can stop for the day if you get too tired, but keep on looking the next day.

Think of it this way.  The harder a time you have finding a scholarship; the less competition you will have!  So, keep on looking and eventually you should get a scholarship

6. Organize your surroundings and your time.

Keeping organized is one of the most important habits all college students should develop.  It helps with study time, and it helps with scholarships. When your surroundings are organized, is easy to concentrate on your application.  On the other hand, when your surroundings are disordered, it is easy to get distracted or loose important papers. Organizing your time is equally important.  When your time is well-scheduled, you can reduce “dead time” and meet your deadlines.  However, when your time is not ordered, it is easy to miss important deadlines or schedule two things for the same time.  Keep both physically and mentally organized!

7. Watch for scholarship scams.

Sadly, there are many scam artists who try to make money off gullible students.  College scholars loose millions of dollars every year to these scholarship scams! That is the bad news.  Thankfully, there is good news – most scholarship scams are easily recognizable if you know the signs.  The cardinal rule of scholarship scams is: “If it takes money to get money, it is probably a scam.”

8. Write an Accomplishments Resume. (Brag Sheet)

Often when writing scholarships, it is difficult to remember some important piece of information.  The date that you started work at a certain job.  Or what your boss said about your work. Looking for this information can break your concentration, lower your writing quality, and decrease your chance of winning the scholarship.  Before you start applying for scholarships, write an accomplishment resume.  On this resume include all the important information such as dates, a summary of your work, and recommendations.

9. Use concrete examples in essays.

If the scholarship requires that you write an essay (and most do), don’t simply use abstract information – use concrete examples.  For example, instead of writing an abstract essay about volunteering in college, write about your experiences while volunteering.

This is an excellent time to use your accomplishments resume.  Scholarship sponsors want to hear about you and your experiences, not about some abstract topic.

10. Double check the eligibility requirements.

Does the scholarship require demonstrated need?  What about full-time enrollment?  Or a minimum GPA?  Double checking the eligibility requirements will save you time spent in writing unnecessary scholarship applications.

Armed with these ten must-have tips, you should be able to make your scholarship application and essay more noticeable to the scholarship evaluation committee.