

Tips for Scholarship Applicants



Congratulations on pursuing your goals for your education!

You are on the right path to ensuring your career goals are also met.

Before you jump into completing the scholarship application, there are a few things you should consider to increase your chances of being selected as a scholarship recipient.

Collect all your documents before beginning the application. Check out the application again and make note of what you'll need. Now, go find the documents you need and come back to the application when you can focus on submitting your information in one sitting. Your thoughts will be better collected, and your writing will be more organized since you are more organized from the start.

Send materials in before the deadline date. This may seem like something that should go without saying, but it is surprising how many applicants are disqualified because they submitted their applications after the deadline.

Be sure to answer each part of the prompts. More applications than can be counted have been disqualified because of a lack of complete information being provided. Read each prompt and answer it completely and follow the instructions. Also, be sure your responses are within the word limit.

Pay Special Attention to the Narrative! Remember that your narrative about your career goals, including your thoughts on why this scholarship is important to you, is probably the most important part of your application. Your personal story or narrative gives us as the judges a glimpse into your dreams and aspirations, your personality, and mannerisms. As you write your narrative, think about which information is the most important for us to know in order to develop a positive first impression of you. A well-written narrative will make you stand out from other applicants.

Tell us about your logic in your statements. We're not looking for a long list of all the accomplishments you have. We are looking for a story shows us your ability to communicate your ideas clearly and lets us know what is a priority to you. Tell us about where you see yourself 5, 10, or more years in the future. How will this scholarship contribute to a personal goal?

Don't forget your Community Service Activities. Supporting your community by volunteering in different ways is important to share with us. Describe your extracurricular activities with passion and commitment, rather than just providing a list of them.

Don't underestimate the power of a recommendation letter. When it comes to recommendations, choose wisely, selecting an individual who knows you well and can support you clearly and powerfully. Give the recommender plenty of advanced notice ahead of the deadline to allow enough time to draft a solid recommendation. Assist your recommender with their letter by providing a list of contributions you have made in classes or outside groups.

Consider having someone proofread your application, especially your narrative. Send your draft to someone you trust who can provide feedback and input on your narrative, including proofreading for misspellings or grammar errors.

Before pressing that final submit button, read through the instructions again. Go over your application one last time. Make sure you have all the required documents. Make sure your responses answer all the questions in a prompt.