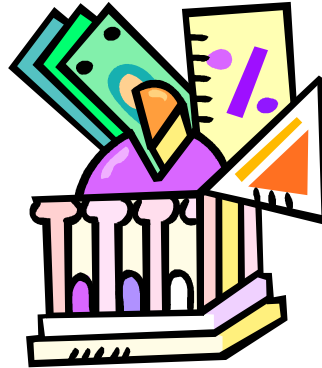


## Step 10: Go for all of the scholarships possible

“We are rewarded for the contributions we make to our organization.”  
..... *Human Resource Management Philosophy*



Start during the junior year and don't put this step off! Keep in touch with the guidance counselors, selected colleges/universities, online, private, occupational, civic, military opportunities, and other sources. Put writing and reading contests in this same category. Colleges and universities also have departmental awards and scholarships based on talents and skills in addition to academic and athletic ones. In fact, you will run across other categories when you search the websites that will not be contained in this book. Scholarships are generally based on merit and not financial need. Some will be based upon both, or special skills and achievements.

Think of scholarships as getting paid for all of those hours and years spent in various activities where your student did not get paid as the activities occurred. One of my sons received \$20,000 in scholarship money spread over four years. He applied for approximately 20 scholarships.  $\$20,000 \div 20 =$  an average of \$1,000 received per application. Want \$25,000? Apply for five more and see what happens!

**Obtain letters of recommendation to attach to the scholarship applications and ask for multiple copies.**

**Ask people found in steps 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 for these letters of recommendation.**

**Ask the letter writers to address them to “Scholarship Committee” rather than to a specific person to fit all situations you may encounter.**

**\* Remember** – The scholarship process does not stop after high school graduation. When students are not awarded a scholarship the first time around, they can apply the next year. Be sure to mark the date on the calendar or palm pilot. Also – some awards and scholarships may not even be available until students are established in a program, curriculum, or degree. Apply for these during the fall, winter, or spring of the freshman college year and/or subsequent years. Don't give up!

Use Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and not gross income when applying for financial aid. Why? It will present a more accurate picture of the family income.

**Apply for college and start with academic scholarships**

It is vital that you plan ahead for admission to the top few choices of colleges or universities. The next step is to check for the scholarship deadlines and plot them on a chart. Use the schools' websites to make this more manageable. Applying online is preferable or you may contact the school as soon as possible for a paper application. Your chart might look something like this:

College	Scholarship	Deadline	Amount	Renewable
Trinity College	Academic	February 15	\$3,000 each year	Yes – must qualify
Bayless University	Thorogoode Music Award	March 10	\$2,000 each year	Yes – qualify one time only
Hormel Music Academy	Academic	March 12	\$2,500 each year	Yes – must qualify
Hormel Music Academy	Four Year Music Award	March 15	\$1,000 each	Yes – qualify one time only

\* Very important – Keep trying during and after the freshman year.

Colleges may read a prospective student's essays before reading the transcripts, applications, or letters of recommendations. As a student, learn to present yourself well and professionally. In addition to the required documents, you may want to add a resume, a CD with appropriate information, or an outline of yourself. You must ask and answer this question, "What do I want to say about myself?"

**Determine the purpose of the scholarship essay.  
Learn to write essays for content and key words!  
Come right out and say what you mean so there  
is no misunderstanding or reason to clarify.**

There are two important ideas to express here. 1) As a parent, don't push your child too hard or some of the plan may backfire by disinteresting your child. 2) Update the college/university on your personal progress and interests. At times you may want to ask for professional help in writing essays and answering application questions. The small cost involved may be well worth it.

### **Apply for departmental awards at the selected colleges/universities**

Refer to the department in the college catalog in charge of the major or minor chosen. Determine what awards are available based upon talent and skills that are in addition to academic scholarships. These types of awards may be achievable even though your student did not have a GPA or ACT/SAT score high enough to qualify for the academic scholarship. Be prepared to send samples of work or talents in the form of video or audio tapes, portfolios, written projects, or personal interviews. Be sure to keep a record of all possibilities as well as those applied for. The list will come in handy to avoid duplicating your efforts and for future reference for another child in the family. **\*Check with the development office for additional source of funds.** This worked for our family twice – when everyone else said there was no financial help available. The director had extra money left over at the end of the semester.

### **Search all other sources until they are exhausted**

The guidance counselor will keep students posted on scholarships that are available as they come up. However, counselors don't know about all financial sources that are out there. This is why you must make a personal, extensive search.

Carefully search these websites:

- FastWeb
- Scholarships.com

# WORKSHEET

**Ask yourself the following 3 questions and provide a short, simple answer.**

- ❖ 1. Which colleges and corresponding academic scholarships should we contact?
- ❖ 2. How can we determine which departmental awards are available?
- ❖ 3. Where can all of the other sources for college scholarship/award funding be found and how do we apply?

**Answer to 1.**

**Answer to 2.**

**Answer to 3.**

**Reflect upon what you just wrote and thought about.**

**Now expand upon what you just wrote and thought about.**

**How will you apply these ideas differently to be more successful?**

Don't stop now – this is just the beginning. Read on and check out the websites.

**Websites to open:**

- [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)**
- [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com)**
- [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov)**
- [www.fastWEB.com](http://www.fastWEB.com)**
- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)**
- [www.keycolleges.com](http://www.keycolleges.com)**
- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)**