

# Scholarships

By Karen Denney

## Disclaimer

- This information is for general informational purposes only.
- I make no guarantees regarding results, present or future.
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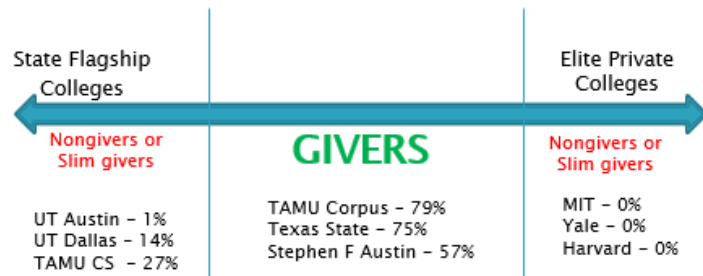
## Four types of financial aid: Scholarships, Grants, Work-Study & Loans

### Types of Scholarships

- **Automatic Scholarships** – a few colleges offer these guaranteed scholarships as long as you are accepted to that college and you meet the scholarship requirements (GPA & test scores) and they are often renewable
- **Competitive Scholarships** – come from colleges or outside sources and are mostly merit based
  - **Characteristics** – age or grade, ethnicity, gender, height, left-handed, first generation
  - **Talent** – athletic, music, dance, theatre
  - **Academics** – grades (GPA) &/or test scores (ACT/SAT)
  - **Leadership** – jobs, internships, club & organization membership
  - **Community Service** – volunteering

### Not all colleges give merit aid

It is related to their ability to attract students...because there are plenty of students willing to pay full price to attend!



% of institutional aid given **without** respect to financial need

## Community Service

- Church
- Nursing home
- Day care center
- Recreational center
- Sports complex
- School
- Summer camp program
- Animal shelter
- Homeless shelter
- Local hospital/clinic
- Library
- Senior Citizen Center
- Recycling
- Teen Court
- Mentoring
- Neighborhood cleanups
- Reading to children
- Tutoring
- Coaching youth teams
- Big Brother/Sister
- Adopt a Grandparent
- Girls & Boys Club
- United Way
- Salvation Army
- Special Olympics
- Meals on Wheels
- Habitat for Humanity
- Food Bank
- Red Cross

Starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Quality VS Quantity

## Leadership Experience

### Jobs, Internships, Clubs & Organizations

**SCHOOL CLUBS**

- Art Club
- Athletics
- AVID
- Band
- BPA
- Cheer
- Choir
- Crime Stoppers
- Criminal Justice
- Dance
- Debate
- DECA
- Drama/Thespians
- FFLA
- FFA
- HOSA
- Key Club
- NHS
- NTHS
- SkillsUSA
- Spanish Club
- TAFE
- TSA
- School Newspaper
- School Yearbook
- Student Council
- UIL

**COMMUNITY CLUBS**

- Killeen Youth Advisory Commission
- 4-H
- Athletics (club)
- Big Brothers/Sisters of America
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America
- Boy/Girl Scouts of America
- Church
- YMCA
- Young Life

Starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Quality VS Quantity

What **impact** have you made on others and what **values** have you gained?

# Letters of Recommendation

## Who to Ask (NEVER a relative)

- Teachers/Counselors/Administrators
- Employers
- Club Advisors/Sponsors/Coaches
- Community Leaders
- Pastors

Give them at least two weeks' notice

## Essays



- **Specific Topic**
- **Generic Topic** (YOUR story in YOUR words)
  - Introduction
  - Life Purpose....future goals (education/career)
  - Family Background
  - Obstacle/Challenge
  - Community Service & Leadership Experiences
  - Conclusion

Quote from a \$1 Million Scholarship Winner  
*"It's a long process **at first**, but after the first few applications they become easier to complete. You begin to know what it takes to fill out applications, so have everything ready."*

-Shanya Robinson-Owens a \$1 Million Scholarship Winner

## Portfolio



- ▶ Community Service documentation
- ▶ **Résumé** (honors & awards, club involvement, employment)
- ▶ Essays
- ▶ Recommendation Letters
- ▶ Transcript w/ GPA, Class Rank & Test Scores
- ▶ Other Info
  - Financial Reports (FAFSA SAR)
  - Samples of your work (certifications, photos, videos, articles, art work...)
  - Copy of birth certificate/passport (proof of citizenship)
  - Professional photography (headshot)
- ▶ Tracking Scholarships Spreadsheet

## Follow a system

Commit to the process

- Set aside time **EVERY week (3 hours)**
  - Monday - 30 minutes to search for scholarships
  - Tuesday - 1 hour to write an essay
  - Wednesday - 30 minutes to fill out application
  - Thursday - 30 minutes to get other documents (letters of rec, transcript...)
  - Friday - 30 minutes to edit your essay
- **Apply** (about 5 scholarships per week)
  - Local scholarships have the least amount of competition
  - The more work required, the less competition
  - Don't rule out low \$ scholarships...they add up
- Submit application **on time**
- Appoint a **scholarship coach**
  - Meet with them weekly (10 minutes)
  - Have them review your applications/essays
  - Share what you have accomplished that week
  - Discuss problems you are having



**When to Look** - year-round & every year you plan to attend college

## Where to Look

- **School** – High School Guidance Office, College Financial Aid Office, College Alumni, College Department
- **Affiliations (you/parent/grandparent)** – employers, clubs & organizations, religious & financial institutions
- **Apps** – Scholly, RaiseMe, Going Merry, ScholarshipOwl, Apply.Me, CollegeHunch, Fastweb, Niche
- **Internet**
  - Scholarship Search Engines – College Green Light, College Board, Peterson’s, Cappex, Chegg
  - Google Search – “Scholarships” + “attribute about you”
- **Social Media** – Facebook, twitter, Nextdoor, LinkedIn

## Show your gratitude

- When you win a scholarship, send a thank-you note to the scholarship provider right away
- At the end of the scholarship year, send a follow up note letting them know how their award contributed to your educational experience

## Scholarship Displacement

- Private scholarships can reduce your **need-based aid** (grants, work study and/or subsidized loans)
  - Colleges cannot accept more aid than the student’s COA
  - Colleges argue that additional scholarships cause the “need” to change
  - Research how your college handles private outside scholarships
- Report all private scholarships to your financial aid office

## Scam Warning Signs

- Sounds too good to be true
- Has you pay a fee
- Claims you won, but you never applied (then asks for a processing fee)
- Offers money-back or guarantees
- Requires credit card, bank account, or SSN

## Your scholarship may or may not be taxable

- ▶ A scholarship is usually **tax free** if you are a degree candidate and the award is used to pay for tuition and required fees, books, supplies and equipment
- ▶ Scholarships are **taxable** if used to pay for room and board or a stipend for living expenses