



Crosby Scholars

For college. For life.

Crosby Scholars Program

Scholarship Handbook 2011-2012

There are many opportunities to receive scholarship funds for college. Like most valuable opportunities in life, the more a student puts into the search for gift aid funding, the more likely he or she is to receive gift aid. There are now so many ways to discover funds available to assist with educational expenses on the post-secondary level, it is usually unwise to pay a firm to do a scholarship search for you. Instead, take the time to explore the free resources available to students and their parents.

Usually students are eligible for more gift aid at higher cost schools than at lower cost schools. Until you apply for institutional need-based and merit aid programs and receive a financial aid award, you will not be able to determine the true cost of enrolling at one school over another. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you evaluate factors other than just gross charges when looking at potential colleges. Factors include academic offerings, academic support services, size, location, single sex or co-ed, diversity, housing opportunities, religious ties, and social atmosphere. With the tremendous amount of financial assistance available, both gift aid and self-help aid (jobs and loans), most students who have followed the correct application process on time will be able to attend his or her first choice school if offered admission. By receiving scholarships from outside sources a student has the opportunity to improve his or her financial aid by increasing the total award and/or converting self-help into gift aid.

The Crosby Scholars Program hopes this handbook, along with information published by the WS/FC School system, will be of assistance to you as you carry out your search.

The Crosby Scholars Program in coordination with the WS/FC School system will sponsor financial aid Crosby Senior Academies on January 5 and again on January 12, 2012. Read your monthly newsletter and the information posted on your Crosby board for more details. Register your attendance online at www.crosbyscholars.org beginning in December.

Remember, each high school has designated a guidance counselor to serve as a scholarship coordinator. Do you know the scholarship coordinator at your school? Have you read your school's scholarship newsletters? **Scholarship committees often reward the applicants who put forth the most effort!**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are the ideal way to help finance your education. **Because they are gifts, these funds do not have to be repaid.** Schools, foundations, businesses, and civic and fraternal organizations offer scholarships. There are many different kinds of scholarships available.

Merit-based Scholarships -

- acknowledge academic, athletic, or artistic achievement
- encourage study in a specific field of interest
- recognize civic participation or community service
- encourage members of under represented groups to pursue higher education



Crosby Scholars Program—review the opportunities unique to Crosby Scholars that are listed in your Crosby senior notebook.

Parent's place of employment - Check for scholarship opportunities available through your parents. Many companies and unions have some type of program to help employees' children bear the cost of a college education.

Religious Organizations - Check with your local church, temple, mosque or other religious institution about scholarship opportunities. Scholarships offered by religious organizations do not always require that you be of that particular faith. Some might focus on class rank; others may be interested in your dedication and involvement within the religious community; and some are based solely on financial need.

Corporations - Many large corporations offer college scholarships, as do many smaller companies. Requirements for corporate scholarships vary. Some ask that you pursue a certain area of study in college or show promise in leadership.

ROTC - The Armed Forces of the United States will offer to fully or partially fund your college education for a commitment to serve in the military for a period after graduation. You will also be required to serve as a reserve officer while in college. For more information, contact your counselor, ROTC instructor at your high school, or military recruiter. You need NOT have participated in ROTC during high school to apply for a ROTC scholarship.

The sponsors of need-based scholarships (often called grants) will consider the merit criteria, but they make the final decision based on your financial need.

Source: *Scholarships.com*



The guidance office at your school has a wealth of scholarship information. Check with your guidance counselor often to seek scholarship opportunities.

Remember, submitting an application by the deadline is crucial.

FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- ⇒ Financial Need
- ⇒ Academic Excellence
- ⇒ Athletic Excellence
- ⇒ Special Skills, Interests, Talents, Community Involvement

Since scholarships are awarded by many different organizations, other factors that might be considered include the following:

- ⇒ Affiliations with clubs, fraternities, sororities, organizations
- ⇒ Religious affiliations
- ⇒ Intended field of study
- ⇒ Legal residence
- ⇒ Ethnic background
- ⇒ Military service of student and/or family
- ⇒ High school affiliation
- ⇒ College/University
- ⇒ Employers



TIPS ON LOCATING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

- ⇒ Begin your search early.
- ⇒ Conduct a self-assessment.
- ⇒ Request and read the financial aid literature from the colleges/universities you are considering.
- ⇒ Keep in constant contact with your high school guidance office; their information is updated frequently.
- ⇒ Your guidance office will have information on scholarships specifically for students at your school.
- ⇒ Use the school and public libraries as resources.
- ⇒ Search the Internet. See the list of websites to visit listed in your Crosby senior notebook.
- ⇒ Make a contact list of family members' employers and organization affiliations.
- ⇒ Apply for as many scholarships as possible.
- ⇒ Make sure you have current contact and deadline information.
- ⇒ Submit a Crosby Scholar's last dollar grant application by May 15.



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Start early and work diligently.
- Research opportunities available to you.
- Gather information and prioritize opportunities for which you are qualified to apply.
- Request the application, if it is not available on-line or in your guidance office.
- Read and follow all instructions carefully. Be especially certain to determine if you can attach separate sheets or if your response must be within a particular space on the application.
- Always keep your applications and other forms neat and orderly. Confirm if applications can be submitted on-line.
- Keep a calendar of deadlines to meet. Don't wait until the due date to mail applications.
- Keep a supply of documents that need to be attached to applications, i.e., transcripts, proof of membership, activities resume, and photographs (along with envelopes and stamps).
- Answer **all** questions and send in **all** requested materials. Don't leave items blank.
- Give references sufficient time to submit recommendations (at least 2 weeks). Provide references with an activities resume outlining your activities, goals, and honors.
- Practice your responses on a separate sheet of paper. Have them proofed for spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Do not depend on spell checkers alone. Neatly copy over your final effort. Have someone proof your written responses before you submit them.

TIPS FOR A WINNING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

1. Apply only if you are eligible.
2. Complete the application.
3. Read and follow all instructions.
4. Submit a clean and neat application.
5. Submit a well-composed essay that makes a definite impression.
6. Be aware of and meet all deadlines.
7. Mail application to the proper address and affix the proper postage.
8. Give your application materials a final review.
9. Seek assistance if you feel you need it.
10. Make sure you're proud of and satisfied with your application submission.



TOP REASONS AN APPLICATION WILL NOT WIN A SCHOLARSHIP

1. Forgot to include name and/or address.
2. Submitted an incomplete application.
3. Applicant was rude or abusive to the judges.
4. Submitted a messy application.
5. Applied when not meeting the minimum requirements.
6. Sent it "postage due."
7. Mailed the envelope without the application enclosed.
8. Submitted irrelevant or inappropriate supporting documentation.
9. No one could read the application or application was illegible.
10. Spelling errors.

Resource: *Scholarships.com*



TIPS ON ESSAY WRITING

- Stick to the subject.
- Be clear and precise.
- Develop an outline before writing your essay.
- Write several drafts of your essay. Check to make sure you included each important point.
- Proofread your essay several times. Have someone else proofread your essay—like a Crosby Scholars Program’s volunteer essay reader.



Read more about essay writing in your Crosby senior notebook!

THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF ESSAY WRITING*

- ↑ **Do** think “small” and write about something that you know.
- ↑ **Do** reveal yourself in your writing.
- ↑ **Do** write in your own “voice” and style.
- ↑ **Do** show rather than tell. By giving examples and illustrating your topic, you help bring it to life.
- ↓ **Don't** write what you think others want to read.
- ↓ **Don't** exaggerate or write to impress.
- ↓ **Don't** use a flowery, inflated, or pretentious style.
- ↓ **Don't** neglect the technical part of your essay (grammar, spelling, sentence structure).
- ↓ **Don't** ramble - say what you have to say and conclude.



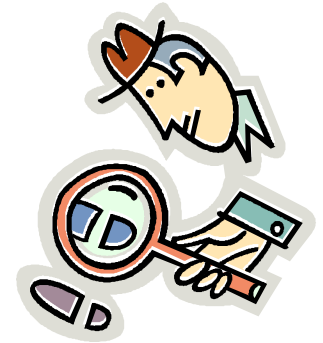
*Portions are excerpts from the *Writing Your College Essay* guide distributed by Randolph-Macon College

TIPS ON PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

- Dress conservatively. Do not chew gum or wear a hat indoors. If you have questions about proper attire, talk with your counselor or a school administrator.
- Do not take anyone else into the interview with you unless required by the interviewer.
- Make eye contact.
- Be prepared to shake hands if initiated by the interviewer.
- Be personable, friendly, and professional.
- Speak clearly.
- Stick to the subject.
- Have a clear list in your mind of your achievements, special skills, and activities you want the interviewer to know about you.
- Have some pertinent questions to ask the interviewer.
- Before the interview, practice interviewing with someone, preferably an adult who has been through a similar interview.

APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Every scholarship is different, so you must approach each scholarship application and/or interview accordingly. The more you know about the organization, the better chance you have of winning the scholarship. When applying for scholarships, it is important to keep several things in mind: Who created the scholarship and why? Who are the past scholarship winners and what have they done? Who is on the selection committee?



Know who created the scholarship

Knowing who created the scholarship can help you understand the people who will be reviewing your application. It might also help you think of ideas for your essay or topics to introduce during an interview. For example, if the scholarship for which you are applying is offered by the Society of Women Engineers, know a little something about women engineers and what problems they face.

Show interest in the organization

Tailor your application to show that you are interested in the organization.

Know what the sponsor organization does

Research the organization and know its mission.

Know something about the organization's history

If the scholarship fund was created by an individual, learn about that person's life and accomplishments. It is always a good idea to know as much as possible about who is offering the scholarship. It shows that you are responsible, intelligent, and motivated.

Prepare for the interview

If you are required to attend a scholarship interview, keep in mind the following tips: Dress conservatively. Arrive early. You don't want to seem hurried, disoriented or disheveled when you enter an interview.

Resource: *Embark.com*

If you receive the scholarship, send a handwritten note thanking the scholarship provider.



AVOID SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

Proceed With Caution ~ As you search, you may come across information that makes finding and applying for scholarships sound too good or too easy. It may simply be that the process isn't as difficult as you feared. There are scams out there, however, and you need to know how to identify them. Read more about avoiding scholarship scams in your senior notebook.

The U.S. Dept of Ed estimates that families lose millions of dollars to scholarship fraud every year. The College Scholarship Service Fraud Prevention Act provides protection against fraud in student financial assistance. Be careful when searching for information on student financial aid. Call 877-382-4357 or visit www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams for details.

NCAA ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY CENTER

To compete in NCAA athletics in college, you need to meet certain graduation requirements. The NCAA has established a central clearinghouse to certify athletic eligibility to Division I and II institutions. Students who intend to participate with or without a scholarship as a freshman in college must register with and be certified as eligible by the NCAA Eligibility Center. Read about this in your senior notebook, and go online at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

PARENTAL ENCOURAGEMENT

- ☺ Discuss scholarship opportunities with your student's guidance counselor. Review scholarship listings. Determine how often the lists are updated.
- ☺ Assist your student in tracking deadlines. Mark task deadlines on a large calendar and post it where the whole family can see it. Be sure to mark progress on it as well as deadlines.
- ☺ Discuss possible career choices.
- ☺ Expose students to friends and relatives who hold positions in their field(s) of interest.
- ☺ Assist student in evaluating his/her preferences in college choice - size, location, academic interest, academic support services, extracurricular opportunities. Review school literature, and ask the student to explain how that school meets his/her criteria.
- ☺ Arrange and/or provide opportunities for children to participate in college tours and visitations.
- ☺ Provide encouragement and opportunities for discussions.
- ☺ Check with employers, relatives, friends, neighbors about scholarship opportunities available.
- ☺ Help student role play interviews. Help him/her think of questions to ask and positive points to make.



RESOURCES ON THE WEB

www.cfnc.org

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.collegeboard.com

www.ncseaa.edu

www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.wsfoundation.org

www.finaid.org

www.scholarships.com

www.fastweb.com

