

Scholarships for Now and for the New Year Thursday, November 12, 2020

In this seminar, we will cover scholarships to help pay for Spring 2021, scholarships to help pay for the 2021-2022 semester, how to find more scholarships, recommended resources, how the Writing Center at TSU can help you, and how you can make appointments in the Writing Center.

Scholarships to Help Pay for Spring 2021

1. <https://theedontstopsscholarship.com/>

\$10,000 Megan Thee Stallion Don't Stop Scholarship, D: Nov 2020

The deadline for this scholarship is this month. I checked this morning, and the scholarship is still up. However, the scholarship could be taken down tomorrow. —Mike Turner

If this scholarship applies to you, start today. Get on it.

Selected criteria from website:

Two \$10,000 scholarships to “women of color that are pursuing an associates, bachelors, or post-graduate degree in any field of study.”

This scholarship is “open to students worldwide.”

“The scholarship winner must be enrolled and accepted as a full or part time undergraduate or graduate student for 2020-2021 school year. The scholarship winner will be announced in November 2020.”

“Open to all college students who: (a) are 13 years of age or older; (b) have proof of enrollment and (c) have been accepted as a full-time or part time undergraduate or graduate student for the applicable academic term. Limit of one entry per person.

\$10,000 scholarship is paid directly to academic institution.”

“The essay for the scholarship should basically be about yourself, what you are majoring in and why you need the degree,” the “Savage” artist tweeted on Thursday night. “Doesn't matter how many words or pages just do your best hotties!” —the quote from article by Christi Carras

Carras, Christi. “Meg Thee Stallion is giving \$10,000 scholarships to women of color. How to apply.” *Los Angeles Times*, 9 October 2020, <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/music/story/2020-10-09/megan-thee-stallion-dont-stop-scholarship-application>

How the Writing Center Can Help You: Make an appointment in the Writing Center for an online appointment to talk over and brainstorm some ideas for your essay or to go over what you have already written. How to make an appointment will be detailed later in this presentation.

2. <https://www.tmcf.org/students-alumni/scholarship/tmcf-covid-19-emergency-award/>

Up to \$1,000 TMCF/Covid-19 Emergency Award, D: Ongoing

TSU is a Thurgood Marshall College Fund school.

Selected criteria from website:

“Students selected will receive an emergency award of up to \$1,000 for the 2020-2021 academic school year. Funding is intended to allow students to meet their needs and continue their education. Funding is available until the funds are exhausted or until the end of the summer term 2021, whichever comes first.

TMCF will only consider requests to cover expenses in five areas:

- IT/Technology Needs: for example, laptop, Wi-Fi hotspot, access codes for e-books
- Housing/Rent Needs: for example, mortgage, rent, utility bills
- Food Insecurity Needs: for example, groceries
- Transportation/Travel Needs: or example, gas, car repairs, train/bus/plane tickets, moving support
- Mental Health: for example, copays for therapist appointments

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be enrolled full-time as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior undergraduate at a TMCF member-school during the 2020-2021 academic school year.
- Current cumulative grade point average of 2.7 or higher.
- Be a U.S. Citizen or legal permanent resident with a valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551.”

How the Writing Center Can Help You: If this application involves any writing, such as explaining why you need this help, then make an appointment in the Writing Center to go over the material and/or review your response.

3. <https://www.derricklawfirm.com/library/scholarship.cfm>

\$1,000 Dirk Derrick Car and Truck Accident Injury Scholarship, D: Dec. 15, 2020

The winner will be announced on December 20 and then a check will be cut before the end of the year and mailed directly to the winner. You should be able to apply it to the spring semester (this

answer came from the law firm when I asked several questions about when the scholarship would be dispensed).

Selected criteria:

- open to any current or soon-to-be undergraduate student in the U.S. who “has had his or her life altered due to an injury from a car or truck accident, be it their own injury, that of a loved one, or an influential individual.
- Students applying must submit an essay where you explain, present, inspire, or otherwise convince us as to why you deserve to win this scholarship.
- There are no conditions or outside requirements for this essay.
- Please keep submissions to *5 paragraphs and 600 words* at the absolute maximum.”

Click on the above link for more information.

How the Writing Center Can Help You: First, we can help you determine how you can apply for this scholarship if you qualify. We can help you brainstorm your response. Then, we can help you look through and revise your essay.

4. <https://www.certalaw.com/certa-law-personal-injury-wrongful-death-scholarship/>

\$1,000 Certa Law Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Scholarship, D: Dec 15, 2020

This scholarship is awarded on December 20, allowing the money to be used for the 2021 Spring semester.

Selected criteria:

“...an award for any current or soon-to-be undergrad who have had their life altered due to a bodily injury from an automotive or pedestrian accident, be it their own injury, that of a loved one, or an influential individual.

The Certa Law Scholarship has a brief submission process, and applicants will be judged on their ability to convey the lasting effect an accident has had on their life.

Students applying must submit an essay where you explain, present, inspire, or otherwise convince us as to why you deserve to win this scholarship.

Please keep submissions to 5 paragraphs and 600 words at the absolute maximum.

The winning submission will be one which clearly conveys a non-fictional story of your life before and after an auto accident.”

How the Writing Center Can Help You: The Writing Center can help you determine if you qualify for this scholarship and then brainstorm a response. Then, you can bring your rough draft to a writing tutor, and that writing tutor can help you review and give suggestions for a revision.

Bring the revision back and get some more pointers on how to polish up your draft to get to a final draft.

5. <https://marveloptics.com/blog/scholarship-program/>

\$1,500 MarvelOptics Scholarship Contest, D: Jan. 5, 2021

This scholarship will be awarded by January 31, 2021 and is to be used for tuition and books only (academic costs).

Answer the following prompt, “Helen Keller said, ‘The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.’ What does that mean to you?”

Then, craft a response (short essay of no more than 300 words or a video that must be one minute in length) for a social media post or a blog post that gives your take on the prompt.

More instructions at the link above.

How the Writing Center Can Help You: You could make an appointment in the Writing Center to help brainstorm ways to answer the prompt, to go over your essay once it is written, or to plan your video response.

Scholarships to Help Pay for the 2021-2022 Semester

1. <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/education-matters-scholarship>

\$5,000 Education Matters Scholarship, D: Nov. 30, 2020

In order to complete for scholarships sponsored by Unigo, you will need to complete a scholarship profile with Unigo.

By clicking on **See Previous Winners**, you can see what past winners of this scholarship wrote.

To apply, you must be a U.S. student, 14 years of age or older, legal U.S. resident, and reside in the 50 United States or District of Columbia. You must be enrolled or enrolled no later than the fall of 2025 in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning (college, university, or trade school).

Submit an online written response to the question: "What would you say to someone who thinks education doesn't matter, or that college is a waste of time and money?" (250 words or less)

How the Writing Center Can Help: Bring your rough draft by the Writing Center. Have a writing tutor review and give you suggestions on a revision.

Bring your revision in, and then allow a Writing Center tutor to help you craft a response that represents the best answer to the prompt.

2. <https://www.scarlettfoundation.org/students/>

\$2,500 to \$15,000 Scarlett Family Foundation Scholarship, D: Dec. 15, 2020

General Criteria:

- Graduating high school senior, an individual who obtained a GED by June 1, or a college freshman, sophomore, or junior
- Demonstrate financial need via 1040 tax return
- GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Enroll full-time in Fall 2021
- Pursue a Business or STEM degree at a 4-year, non-profit college or university (visit the website for a list of majors)
- Graduate from any high school in Middle Tennessee's 40 counties—refer to the FAQ under Application to see a list of eligible counties—
<https://www.scarlettfoundation.org/students/scholarship-frequently-asked-questions/>

How the Writing Center Can Help You: Putting together a scholarship application can be a challenge, often involving multiple areas involving writing.

When fleshing out your application, do not just mention an organization. Consider if the organization is familiar. For example, the Red Cross is well known, but an organization like The Equity Alliance may not be as well known. Include a small description of the organization in describing your community service. Include two-four activities you did with each organization.

Make your application stand out from the crowd!

Make several appointments in the Writing Center as you are putting scholarships applications together so that a writing tutor can review and give you suggestions.

Make sure you are putting your own unique and best self forward.

3. <https://www.optimal.com/scholarships>

\$5,000 Optimal Scholarships, D: Dec 31, 2020

There are five different scholarships here: undergraduate, graduate, military, community college, and online degree.

Scholarship checks are sent to school the month “following the close of the application period. Generally, those funds are applied to any current balance, and then to the next term.” (In response to an email inquiry.)

For the undergraduate and graduate school scholarship, you answer two prompts in 300-500 words:

- a. How will you apply your degree in the future? What do you anticipate for your first five years after college?
- b. State any special personal or family circumstances affecting your need for financial assistance.

From rules: “Judges will determine the winner based on the following criteria:

- Criteria 1: Financial Need – 50 percent (50%)
- Criteria 2: Academic Commitment – 25 percent (25%)
- Criteria 3: Personal Circumstances – 25 percent (25%)”

How the Writing Center Can Help You: After you have written your responses, you can bring your answers to the Writing Center and have a Writing Center tutor look over your answers, giving you suggestions on how you might expand upon or edit your response.

Take those suggestions, revise your answers, and make another appointment to polish off your responses.

4. <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/unigo-10k-scholarship>

Unigo \$10,000 Scholarship, D: Dec 31, 2020

In order to complete for scholarships sponsored by Unigo, you will need to complete a scholarship profile with Unigo.

By clicking on **See Previous Winners**, you can see what past winners of this scholarship wrote.

To apply, you must be a U.S. student, 14 years of age or older, legal U.S. resident, and reside in the 50 United States or District of Columbia. You must be enrolled or enrolled no later than the fall of 2025 in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning (college, university, or trade school).

Submit an online written response to the question: Imagine a historical figure is brought back to life. Who is it? What's their favorite mobile app?

How the Writing Center Can Help: Bring your rough draft by the Writing Center. Have a writing tutor review and give you suggestions on a revision.

Bring your revision in, and then allow a Writing Center tutor to help you craft a response that represents your best creative answer.

Scholarships to Be Aware Of for the Future

These scholarships are ones you need to be aware to help you pay for 2021-2022 semester.

1. <https://www.tacobellfoundation.org/live-mas-scholarship>

\$25,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 Taco Bell Live Mas Scholarship

You can sign up to be reminded of the next application period. This scholarship is open to ages 16 to 24.

This scholarship may open up in Dec 2020 or Jan or Feb 2021.

2. <https://tnstate.academicworks.com/opportunities>

TSU Foundation scholarship catalog

Front Matter: http://www.tnstate.edu/financial_aid/scholarships.aspx

Here you can find more information about scholarships at TSU, such as university and foundation scholarships and college department scholarships.

TSU Foundation administers scholarships to Tennessee State University students and opens around February 2021 and the deadline is March 31, 2021.

3. <https://bryancollinsscholarship.org/about-the-program/>

\$2,500 Bryan A. Collins Memorial Scholarship, D: Feb 15, 2021

Selected criteria from webpage:

“Scholarship applicants must:

- Be enrolled as an undergraduate student at Tennessee State University.
- Be involved in extra-curricular or campus activities outside of the classroom, demonstrating leadership in such activities.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale).

- Provide at least one faculty recommendation that highlights the applicant’s interpersonal excellence in working with students, faculty, administrators, campus employees or in the community.
- All winners must be present at the Annual Bryan A. Collins Scholarship awards luncheon held in the late March/early April time frame immediately after notification to be recognized and honored. Those not present will forfeit the scholarship.”

I will discuss some ideas about applying for this scholarship in the seminar.

4. <https://www.cfmt.org/grants-scholarships/scholarships/>

Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee administers more than 100 scholarships for the local Middle Tennessee community, including some just for students attending TSU.

Scholarship application period opens in January 2021 and deadline for applications is March 15, 2021.

Look at some of the following scholarships offered, especially at the Jerry Newson Scholarship, Drue Smith/Society of Professional Journalists Scholarship, Emmett H. Turner Scholarship, Teddy Wilburn Scholarship, The Woman’s Club of Nashville Scholarship, and John W. Work III Memorial Foundation Scholarship.

Some of these are very specific, pertaining to what high school you went to, what county you resided in, and what university you are attending.

I know of several TSU students who have received these scholarships, especially the Teddy Wilburn Scholarship. Explore them all to see which pertains to you.

5. <https://www.cof.org/community-foundation-locator>

Other Community Foundation Scholarships All Over America

Not from the Middle Tennessee area. Then, use this Community Foundation Locator at the link above to find a community foundation close to your permanent residence and see what scholarships may be available.

6. <https://www.tmcf.org/students-alumni/scholarships/open-scholarships/>

Open scholarships administered by the **Thurgood Marshall College Fund**.

TSU is a TMCF school.

I advise students check back to this link every 2 weeks or so. Sometimes, you find zero or one scholarship; other times you will find 2-8 scholarships.

7. <https://www.tmcf.org/>

Thurgood Marshall College Fund administers several different programs. Explore the website for those opportunities.

How to Find More Scholarships

<https://jlvcollegecounseling.com/scholarships/>

Search for scholarships here first

<https://jlvcollegecounseling.com/scholarships/all-scholarships-2/>

Scholarships by Monthly deadlines

<https://scholarshipamerica.org/students/browse-scholarships/>

Scholarships for America database of scholarships

<https://www.nitrocollege.com/scholarships>

Good database of scholarships

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>

Unigo Database of Scholarships

<https://www.goodcall.com/scholarships/>

Goodcall Scholarship Database

<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-scholarships.aspx>

Scholarship Finder at CareerOneStop

<https://www.ucango2.org/Scholarships.html>

You can search for scholarships by deadline date or by category (found on the right side).

<https://www.chegg.com/scholarships#>

List of over 25,000 scholarships at Chegg.com, including scholarships for college (including graduate school) and high school students

<https://www.tun.com/scholarships/>

Scholarships database by the University Network

SKIP THE ADS! (Some of the ads are legitimate, but sadly I can't vouch for them all. Avoid the single mom or single dad scholarships—I and a few other students have received calls, and some of the operators are not scrupulous, trying to pressure students in pursuing degrees at for-profit colleges and to take on heavy student loans.)

They often ask very extensive, very invasive questions if you sign up for them, in order to give that information to marketers.)

Looking for Scholarships, Internships, and other Government Programs using Benefits.gov

<https://www.benefits.gov/>

Started in 2002, **Benefits.gov** has become the portal for information about government benefits, which includes state information.

Students, and parents, can choose to answer questions in the Benefit Finder Tool and find benefits, including scholarships, internships, and government programs, they can apply for.

Grants to Individuals Online database

There is a little-known resource called **Grants to Individual Online database**, accessible to students and others through Funding Information Network Locations.

If you happen to be in Nashville, TN, then the Nashville Public Library at 615 Church St, Nashville, TN 37219, Phone: (615) 862-5800 is one of those locations. Since libraries may not be physically open due to Co-Vid, please call the phone number to ask for more information.

<http://grantspace.org/find-us>

By putting in your zip code at the website at the above link, you can find libraries or places you can go to access this database. Since libraries may not be physically open due to Co-Vid, please call the libraries to ask for what you should do.

Have the librarians teach you everything that the Grants to Individual Online database has available.

<http://gtionline.foundationcenter.org/>--This is the official page to look once you get to one of those libraries. I believe if one of these libraries isn't close to you, it costs about \$20 to access for one month.

Recommended Resources

Several people have gone to school for little to no debt. Throughout the years, I have recommended several of these people.

I want to recommend one person if you are in a crunch, needing to look for money now. I recommend Marianne Ragins, who received more than \$400,000 in her senior year of high school to attend college.

Also, these two books are available as a book or a Kindle format.

You do not need to have a Kindle reader to read Kindle books. You can download a Kindle app to read books on your PC or on your phone.

<https://amzn.to/3njMfeB>

Marianne Ragins, *Last Minute College Financing Guide*, 2nd ed. Kindle format. Feb 10, 2019.

<https://amzn.to/3nn8kJn>

Marianne Ragins, *Winning Scholarships for College: An Insider's Guide to Paying for College*, 5th ed. Kindle Edition. Sept 8, 2018.

Writing Help at the TSU Writing Center for Scholarships or Any Writing Concern

As a Tennessee State University student or faculty/staff member, if you need help with scholarship applications, essays, or any other writing concern, know that the Writing Center at Tennessee State University is here for you!

Fall 2020 hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-6:00 pm, 615.963.5102, and Spring 2021 hours will most likely be the same.

For online scheduling: <http://mywco.com/tnstate>

If you already have an account, log in and make an appointment.

If you don't have an account, register for an account by clicking on "Register an Account" next to FIRST VISIT? and schedule your appointment!

For help with any writing concern including resumes, applications, or essays for scholarships or internships, you can sign up for any available writing tutor.

For more scholarships, visit Scholarship Tigers at <https://scholarshiptigers.com/> or contact Mike Turner at mjturner@tnstate.edu.

You can also contact Rhonda Kavan, Writing Center Coordinator at Tennessee State University, at rkavan@tnstate.edu.