

College Cash through Scholarships: How to Find the Money
Thursday, February 18 and Friday, February 19
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In this workshop, we will alert you to several scholarships you may not be aware of to help pay for college. We will also discuss how if you are a Tennessee State University student, you can receive help in the TSU Writing Center.

Then, we will point out ways you can find more scholarships to finance your education with more money, less debt.

If there is any time left over, we will also look for scholarships for majors of those attending the workshop.

This handout will contain scholarships and opportunities we did not get to discuss in the workshops.

Scholarships to Watch Out For

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

TSU Foundation scholarship catalog

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

Most likely, in February 2021, the TSU Foundation will release scholarships that only TSU students can apply for. The deadline for these scholarships is March 31, 2021.

How to Make Your TSU University Foundation Application Stand Out

- ✓ Scholarship funding is limited, so you want your scholarship application to stand out and highlight what makes you unique and different.
- ✓ Often students just list brief information in what they do. This will severely put you at a disadvantage to those students who go into more detail.
- ✓ Think of what you are doing now and what you did in high school and make a list. You will remember things as you go along, and you can add these to your application.
- ✓ Identify positions (volunteer, president, co-founder, vice-president, founder, etc.)
- ✓ Identify organizations, including briefly what the organization does or is

- ✓ Identify responsibilities or activities you did for that organization and go into brief but “telling” detail
- ✓ If you held responsibilities that called upon leadership skills, highlight them.
- ✓ You want to make sure your grammar and punctuation is consistent and correct.
- ✓ You can save and go back to your application as necessary.
- ✓ Once you submit your application, you can then start applying to separate scholarships for which you are qualified. Some of these require answering questions to make sure you are qualified for that particular scholarship or writing a brief essay.

How the TSU Writing Center Can Help You: Make several appointments in the TSU Writing Center to go over your general application to make it as strong as you can, and make appointments to go over essays you are writing for individual scholarships.

Most often, the same questions being asked for the TSU University Foundation Scholarships are similar to other applications, so strong, consistent work can pay off in that you can reframe what you write here and use that toward other scholarships.

2. <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 opened 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.

3. <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.

4. <https://www.regions.com/promo/black-history-month/essay-contest-scholarship>

\$3,500 for college students; \$5,000 for high school students, Regions Riding Forward Essay Contest, D: Mar 31, 2021

Selected criteria from webpage:

“Whose inspiring story will you share?”

Write about a Black American individual who has inspired and motivated you for the opportunity to earn a \$3,500 or \$5,000 college scholarship. Essays should be 500 words or less and should:

1. Address how a Black American individual has been an inspiration in your life.
2. Discuss the contributions of the Black American individual who has served to inspire and motivate you.

College Students

Regions will award \$3,500 scholarships to 15 freshmen, sophomores or juniors who permanently reside in, or currently attend an accredited college in, states with Regions branches and will attend an accredited college in the United States during the 2021-2022 academic school year.

Students who attend an accredited college in Tennessee and have a GPA of 2.0 or higher can enter this scholarship essay contest.

Read the rules for complete information and suggestions on how to write your essay.

How the TSU Writing Center Can Help You: Come and visit tutors in the TSU Writing Center to brainstorm ideas and later to review your essays before you submit them.

5. <http://www.beyondtheboroughs.org/the-scholarship/scholarship-requirements/>

Beyond the Boroughs Scholarship, D: March 15, 2018

Up to \$20,000; \$5,000 each year

Selected criteria from website:

“Scholarships up to \$20,000 over four years will be awarded to full-time students who have been accepted to an accredited four-year college, university, or equivalent (culinary school, for example). **Applicants can be current high school seniors entering college in the fall or students currently attending a college or university.**

The scholarship will be paid directly to the institution of higher learning. Everyone who meets the requirements below is invited to apply.

Scholarship recipients will receive notice of their award by June 15 of the school year prior to when the scholarship will commence.

Scholarship Application Requirements:

- Acceptance to an accredited four-year college, university, or equivalent
- Low income household
- G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher
- Involvement in an extra-curricular activity or work
- Completion of full application including a completed **Student Aid Report** from the FAFSA or the CSS Profile
- Submit application by the March 15th deadline.”

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

Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) Scholarships

I tell students to check this website about every 1-2 weeks to learn about opportunities. Sometimes there are no scholarships available or only 1 or 2, but sometimes there are several.

The last presentation I did, there were only one; now, there are 38 currently open.

We will look at the above link and discuss some of the current open scholarships and their requirements.

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

Extra Note about the TMCf: This fund gives out more than scholarships. Explore its front page to discover other opportunities about leadership seminars, internships, jobs, entrepreneurships, and more.

7. <https://www.dosomething.org/us/about/easy-scholarships>

\$1,000-\$5,000 DoSomething.Org Scholarships—check back every month or so

From webpage: “Are you 25 years old or younger and live in the US or Canada (or are a citizen of either country, but living abroad), interested in volunteering, and looking for scholarship opportunities? Then you’re in the right spot.

Enter to win by doing community service. No essays, no GPA requirements, no recommendations, no applications...and you can enter multiple scholarships.”

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

\$2,000 Optimal Scholarships, D: March 31, 2021

There are three different scholarships here: undergraduate, 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 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.

Scholarships that Involve Some Writing

Sweet and Simple Scholarship –Deadline Feb 28, 2021 (\$1500.00)

Submit at <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/sweet-and-simple-scholarship>

Prompt: "Not every gift has to be expensive or extravagant. In fact, sometimes it's the sweet and simple things that make a real difference in our lives. Think back and tell us about something you received as a gift and why it meant so much to you." (250 words or less)

Superpower Scholarship-Deadline March 31, 2021 (\$2500.00)

Submit at <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/superpower-scholarship>

Prompt: "Write an answer to the following question: which superhero or villain would you want to change places with for a day and why?" (250 words or less)

All About Education Scholarship -Deadline April 30, 2021 (\$3000.00)

Submit at <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/all-about-education-scholarship>

Prompt: "Write an answer to the following question: how will a \$3,000 scholarship for education make a difference in your life?" (250 words or less)

Fifth Month Scholarship -Deadline May 31, 2021 (\$1500.00)

Submit at <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/fifth-month-scholarship>

Prompt: "May is the fifth month of the year. Write a letter to the number five explaining why five is important. Be serious or be funny. Either way, here's a high five to you for being original." (250 words or less)

Education Matters Scholarship -Deadline November 30, 2021 (\$5000.00)

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

Prompt: "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)

Unigo \$10K Scholarship -Deadline December 31, 2021 (\$10,000.00)

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

Prompt: "2020 was a year to be remembered. What will you remember most about 2020 and why is it important to you?" (250 words or less)

How the TSU Writing Center Can Help You: Make appointments with a writing center tutor to go over your answers and write several drafts before submitting your best one.

All the above scholarships require you to create a one-time profile at unigo.com, which matches you up with more scholarships that apply to you.

Other Scholarship Opportunities

1. <https://www.aiga.org/worldstudio-scholarship/>

\$2,500-\$3,000 AIGA Worldstudio Scholarships, D: April 13, 2021

Selected criteria from website:

“Educational Requirements

Students must have at least a 2.0 GPA.

Applicants must be pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in one of the following disciplines:

Graphic design

Illustration

Photography

*Note: Apply in the category that best matches your major.”

More information available at the link above.

2. <https://www.aspirehigherscholarships.com/>

Up to \$10,000 Aspire Higher Scholarships, D: May 31, 2021

Selected criteria from website:

“9 College Scholarships up to \$10,000 each for 2021-2022 tuition costs

Categories

3 Undergraduate Scholar Awards—for students pursuing undergraduate or vocational/technical degrees

3 Graduate Scholar Awards—for students pursuing graduate degrees

3 Today’s Woman Scholar Awards—for students who are mothers pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or vocational/technical degrees

Determine the scholarship category that fits your academic status. You may only apply within one category. Students pursuing technical/vocational degrees or certificates may be eligible.

See Rules & Regulations.

You may be eligible if you:

- Are a United States citizen living in the United States
- At the time of application, have applied to, have been accepted to, or are currently attending an accredited, nonprofit, two- or four-year college, university, or advanced (post-high school) vocational or technical school for academic year 2021-2022
- Have been diagnosed with and treated for a dermatologic condition
- Have been treated by a dermatologist, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner working in a dermatology practice
- Used a prescription medicine to treat your dermatologic condition*”

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!

Spring 2021 hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-6:00 pm, 615.963.5102.

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/>

You can also contact Lori Danley, Scholarship Writing Tutor/Instructor, at ldanley@tnstate.edu or Rhonda Kavan, Writing Center Coordinator at Tennessee State University, at rkavan@tnstate.edu