

Finance Your Education



A Guide to Finding Scholarships

University of New Haven
First-Year Success Center
Maxcy Hall 106
StudentSuccess@newhaven.edu
203-479-4584

University of New Haven
Financial Aid Office
Maxcy Hall 118B
FinancialAid@newhaven.edu
203-932-7315

Step 1: Find scholarships

Where to
Look...

In the Financial Aid office (Maxcy 118B)

Scholarship folders on the wall

Facebook page: Scholarship of the
Month!

www.facebook.com/UNHFinancialAid

Scholarship binders

On the Web (try 2 or 3 websites):

www.fastweb.com

www.freschinfo.com

www.collegeanswer.com

www.finaid.org/scholarships

www.zinch.com/scholarships/search

www.scholarshipexperts.com

www.scholarships.com

www.careersandcolleges.com



Do you meet the requirements?

For instance, is the scholarship for a special population (First-Generation students, Gender, Ethnicity, Disability Status, Vocational Rehabilitation)? Is there a GPA requirement?

★ Scholarship Tip: *It Doesn't Hurt to Ask!*

- Don't be afraid to ask anyone if they offer a scholarship. The worst that can happen is that he or she says "no". A company may even consider offering a scholarship in the future!



Think Outside
the Box

Church or Religious Organization

Gates Millennium Scholarship

Parents' Employers

Community Organizations

Local Businesses

Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts

Banks

Restaurants

Elks Club, Lions Club, Kiwanis
Club, Rotary Club, etc.

Municipal Organizations



Parks & Recreation

ROTC

Where you work

Athletic Scholarships

Military family benefits

★ Scholarship Tip: Watch Out for Scams!

- Filling out scholarships should cost you time, NOT MONEY! Don't pay to fill out scholarship applications

Exercise 1: Conduct a Mini-Search

Using an online scholarship search engine or one of the “out-of-the-box” scholarship ideas, list 10 potential scholarships that you could apply for:

	Scholarship Name	Where you found it	Deadline
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Step 2: Get Organized



Create a separate folder or envelope for each scholarship (Order them by Due Date!)



Make a checklist of required documents for each scholarship: Essays, Recommendation Letters, Transcripts, etc.



Add all scholarship deadlines to a calendar! Make sure you don't miss the due date!



Gather all required documents and put them in the appropriate envelope/folder in the correct order as required by the scholarship agency.



Have your coach or counselor check over your application to make sure it is ready to go out!



Mail out your scholarship application!

★ Organization Tips:

(Taken from scholarships.com)

- Avoid waiting until the last minute to complete scholarship applications.
- Create a calendar of scholarship deadlines and check it regularly.
- Draft a list of extracurricular activities and keep it updated.
- Keep all scholarship application forms in a file.
- Keep a copy of your most recent transcript in your file.
- Make a list of names and contact information for people who can write recommendation letters for you.
- Store your scholarship application essays on your computer and keep a back up copy on a CD or flash drive.



Step 3: Write a Killer Essay

- Write a Generalized Essay:
 - Many times, you will not have a specific question prompt for scholarship essays
 - On occasion, you may be able to “recycle” ideas from other essays
 - Look at several scholarship applications and write an essay that could be used for multiple scholarships
- Follow the Rules:
 - Make sure your essay is the proper length (pages or word count)
 - Ensure that you answered the question or prompt
 - Check your grammar, sentence structure, and word usage
 - Use a good font and choose an acceptable font size
- Have someone read your essay
 - Have the CLR writing lab review your essay for mistakes
 - Have your coach, counselor, friend, or parent read your essay and give feedback on content
 - Review essays from former scholarship winners (if available) to see if you are on the right track

Step 4: Solicit Recommendations



Ask people to write you a letter.

- Find people who know about you and your accomplishments
- Provide a copy of your resume so that your recommenders can write specific details
- Ask a professor, coach, counselor or employer
- Provide your reference with a description of the scholarship or form if there is a required document
- Prepare an addressed & stamped envelope if the letter will be going directly to the scholarship agency.
- See if you can obtain a copy of the letter to use again (digitally if possible)

Find people to serve as a reference.

- Sometimes you do not need a letter, but will need to list contact information for someone to serve as a reference
- Keep a contact list with updated information on each person who agrees to serve as a reference for you!



RECOMMENDED

Exercise 2: Seek References

Make a list of potential references and then ask if you can use them!

Name: _____

Position Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Phone Type: Home Mobile Work

Email Address: _____

Best time to call: _____

Street Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Ask Permission

List as Reference:

- Yes
- No

Write a Letter:

- Yes
- No

Ask Permission

List as Reference:

- Yes
- No

Write a Letter:

- Yes
- No

Name: _____

Position Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Phone Type: Home Mobile Work

Email Address: _____

Best time to call: _____

Street Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Name: _____

Position Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Phone Type: Home Mobile Work

Email Address: _____

Best time to call: _____

Street Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Ask Permission

List as Reference:

- Yes
- No

Write a Letter:

- Yes
- No