

Learning About Scholarships

The background is a solid teal color. It features several decorative elements: a large, semi-transparent teal circle with a smaller teal circle inside it, positioned in the upper right quadrant; three smaller semi-transparent teal circles of varying sizes scattered in the upper right; and a bar chart in the bottom right corner consisting of four vertical bars of increasing height from left to right, each with a semi-transparent teal top section.

Presented by: Emily O'Quinn, College and Career Readiness Counselor



Types of Financial Aid

Gift Aid

- Grants
- Scholarships

Focus for Today's Presentation

Self-Help Aid

- Employment (work study)
- Loans



What are Grants?

- Can come from the state or [federal government](#), from the college itself, or from private sources.
- This is money you do not pay back.
- Many grants determine eligibility by looking at your FAFSA results.
- Important Grants for Oregon:
 - [Oregon Promise](#)
 - [Oregon Opportunity Grant](#)



What are Scholarships?

- Can come from the from the college itself, or from private foundations.
 - When the college awards you a scholarship, the money has to be used at their school.
 - When a private foundation awards you a scholarship, that money can usually be spent wherever you go to college. Some exceptions apply.
- This is money you do not pay back.
- The scholarship can be a 1 time award, or it can be renewable.
- The college or private funding source determines eligibility criteria (see the next slides for examples)



Types of Scholarships...

Merit-Based Scholarships-

- Awarded on the basis of a talent, skill, or other criteria rather than financial need.
- Example criteria: Grades, test scores, athletic ability, and/or community involvement.
- Example college scholarship websites: [Lewis and Clark](#), [PSU](#), [Carroll College](#), [University of Washington](#)

Need-Based Scholarships-

- Awarded based on the family's need to pay for college.
- Often based off information in the FAFSA, ORSAA or CSS Profile



Types of Scholarships...

Diversity Scholarships-

- typically a renewable scholarship offered through the colleges.
- They are designed for underrepresented and/or first generation college students.

Incentive Scholarships-

- designed to help provide funding to students who could benefit from a little more support. Sometimes these do not have a specific GPA requirement.



Key Tips...what you can start right now

- Gather your materials
 - Create a Honors/Awards file and resume
 - Take the PSAT, SAT and ACT (in Junior Year if possible)
 - Catalog your Community Service activities and be able to describe why you chose them and what you learned
- Research Scholarships
 - [MHS Counseling College webpage](#)
 - Make a list/calendar for yourself.



Scholarship Timeline- Senior Year

- September to December: Students should be looking for scholarships offered through the colleges they are applying. A number of colleges have scholarship deadlines of December 1st.
 - Most colleges have separate scholarship application deadlines
 - Students often miss scholarships for their colleges because they are so focused on the applications
- November to February: Look for National and State level Scholarships and Grants



Scholarship Timeline

- February to May: Focus on scholarships specific to Oregon and to the Beaverton area.
- Always: Stay organized and find a way to keep track of deadlines!!



Tips for the Application

- Always follow the directions- even if you think they are strange, follow them. Not following directions will keep you from getting scholarships.
- Proofread and Edit Carefully!!!
- Know where to turn in the application and the deadline. Some applications have to arrive by a specific time on a specific day and some just need to be postmarked. Others can be hand delivered.



Tips for the Application: The Essay

The essay gives you a chance to tell the committee who you are and why they should help you. It is important to not only talk about an event but how the event helped/is helping you grow, and the character qualities you are developing. Then you will want to discuss how this will help you as you move forward into your future goals.



Tips for the essay continued

- Know the requirements- some want a specific number of words, some a word count, some have specific items to be discussed.
- Analyze the directions. Are there different parts?
- It is ok to say how the money will help you!
- Edit! Edit! Edit! Ask for help!



Tips for the essay continued

- Know the audience:
 - Research the organization giving the scholarship for which you are applying.
 - Who is offering the scholarship
 - Who are the judges?
 - For what is the organization known?
 - What is the organization's mission?



Tips for the essay: The Introduction

- Many personal statements begin with a catchy opening, often a distinctive personal example as a way to getting the reader's attention.
- Keep it short and to the point.
- Connect the example to the actual scholarship: mention the specific name of the scholarship.
- Mention the degree you are seeking to earn when relevant



Tips for the Essay: Body Paragraphs

- Address any specific questions from the application or Address your own qualifications or
- What you've learned or are learning about yourself or
- Long-term goals or a combination on the above
- Each paragraph needs to be focused and have a topic sentence that informs the reader of the emphasis.
- The examples from your experience must be relevant and support your qualifications for the scholarship.



Tips for the Essay: The Conclusion

- Tie together the various issues you raised in the essay, and reiterate your interest in receiving the scholarship. You must also mention how receiving the scholarship will be a step towards a long-term goal in the closing paragraph.
- It's ok to say how the money will help support you in reaching your goals.



Helpful Links

Helpful Links:

[WUE](#)

[OSAC Scholarship](#) (application opens Nov. 1st)

[Scholarships.com](#)

[College Board](#)



Helpful Links

[PCC Scholarship Foundation](#) (application opens Dec. 1st)

[Opportunities Book 2018/2019](#)

[Big Future](#)

[Unigo](#)