



## OFA Online Workshop Series

# THE GREAT SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

## How to Find Outside Scholarships

Ready to begin?  
Click here! 

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## How Things Work


The online courses offered by the Office of Financial Assistance provide students with opportunities to gain knowledge on a variety of topics related to financial aid and money management.


Each course takes about 15 – 20 minutes to complete; but the courses aren't timed and you aren't limited in the number of times you can access these materials.

To navigate through the courses, use the buttons at the bottom of each slide.

To move to the next slide, click on 

To go back to the previous slide, click on 

To return to the beginning of the course, click on 

To go to the end of the course, click on 

Have a question? Click on  

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## The Great Scholarship Search

In this course, you'll:

- Learn the finer points of outside scholarships
- Chart where outside scholarships are likely to be found in your area
- Visit popular resources for outside funding and
- Search uncharted territory for new resources.

Your goal is:

- To develop a map for your personal scholarship search.

Ready to begin? Use your mouse and click on the arrow below.



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## The Finer Points of Outside Scholarships

What are outside scholarships?

Outside scholarships are those scholarship funds provided by individuals, organizations, foundations, groups, businesses, etc. that are not a part of the university you are attending.

In other words, you won't receive an outside scholarship just by completing the FAFSA. You have to *find* these resources on your own; and, once you find them, you have to *apply* for them on your own.



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## The Finer Points of Outside Scholarships

Who provides the funding for these scholarships?

All kinds of entities fund outside scholarships. The variety of resources is really amazing. Outside scholarships can be funded by private individuals, schools, school districts, youth organizations, religious and faith-based organizations, fraternal organizations, businesses, employers, foundations, corporations, community-based organizations, banks, credit unions, online/internet based businesses and organizations, and the list goes on.



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## The Finer Points of Outside Scholarships

How much money is available?

The amount of money varies depending on the donor's resources. Some scholarships may be for as little as \$100 for a single academic year. Other scholarships may provide for tuition and fees (or other costs) for up to four (or more) years.



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## The Finer Points of Outside Scholarships

If I apply, am I guaranteed this money?

No. Most scholarship sponsors have limited funds; and, there are generally many applicants for each scholarship that is open.

Typically, scholarship sponsors will target their funds—meaning they set the eligibility requirements for applicants in a very specific way—so that the applicant pool isn't too large; but, there may still be quite a lot of competition for each of the scholarships you apply for.



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## The Finer Points of Outside Scholarships

How do sponsors determine who is eligible to apply?

This is where life gets a little interesting. You may have seen the commercials where the spokesperson talks about scholarships for left-handed students or daughters of descendants of soldiers that fought at the Alamo. While it is true that such scholarships exist, the majority of sponsors look for criteria that's a bit more common.

The kinds of things sponsors look for are: GPA, community service, participation in specific extracurricular activities, membership in their organization, enrollment in a specific degree or major, enrollment in a specific state or area, or enrollment in a specific college or university.



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## The Finer Points of Outside Scholarships

Some of the other criteria sponsors of outside scholarships *may* consider include: gender, race/ethnicity, national origin, residency, political affiliation, and religion.

Financial need or inability to pay for the cost of education on your own *may* be a factor in determining a student's ability to apply for an outside scholarship; but it isn't always considered. In fact, a majority of scholarship sponsors award strictly based on criteria other than need or inability to pay.



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## The Finer Points of Outside Scholarships

How do I know which criteria are important to the sponsor?

Your best resource for this information is the sponsoring entity. If the sponsor has an application and/or information packet, read it! If you still have questions, call, write or e-mail the sponsor directly. Sponsors want quality applicants that really match their criteria. They will provide you with the information you need—if you ask.



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## The Finer Points of Outside Scholarships

If I receive an outside scholarship, will it have an impact on the other financial aid UIW has awarded to me?

Possibly. You are required to report any outside funding you receive for your education to the UIW Office of Financial Assistance. Why? Because that office considers all of the resources available to you when putting together your financial aid award package. If you receive an outside scholarship that helps offset your educational costs, you will very likely see a reduction in the amount of loans awarded to you. This is a very good tradeoff as less loans now means less you'll have to pay in the future.



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## Where to Find Outside Scholarships

As we mentioned earlier, outside scholarships are provided by all kinds of entities and organizations. With so many sponsors and types of sponsors, how can you possibly locate them all?

The easiest, and best, way to do this is by creating a chart or map of all of the possible known resources available to you personally. First, focus on the resources immediately available to you in your local area, region and state. You can do this by sitting down with your parents, guardians, family or friends and drawing a map. In each sector of the map, list all of the individuals, entities, or organizations you know of (or have heard of) that provide scholarship funds to students. It doesn't matter right now whether these sponsors provide funding specifically for students with your characteristics or not; focus now on the bigger picture.



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## Where to Find Outside Scholarships

Here's what a map might look like:




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## Where to Find Outside Scholarships

Once you have your local, area, regional and state resources mapped out, have your parents, family, and friends help you contact each of these entities to find out what sorts of scholarships are available locally.

Gather as much information as you can about each of the scholarships, put it in a file folder, and move on to the next step.




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## Popular Resources

The next step in your scholarship search is to check out some of the more popular scholarship resources. You can typically find scholarship information, already researched and indexed, at: your local library, your local bookseller, and online.

There are, however, a few things you should keep in mind about the information you locate using these resources. (1) As soon as the information is published, its already out of date. (2) You can spend a lot of money at the bookstore. (3) Online information providers have a lot of information, but not necessarily all of the information you will need to successfully find and apply for outside scholarships. If you find yourself in a crunch and have difficulty finding or understanding the information you need, contact the UIW Office of Financial Assistance for guidance.




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## Popular Resources

Online resources are terrific fonts of information. Some of *the* most popular online scholarship search engines include:

Fast!Web – <http://www.fastweb.com>  
Broke Scholar – <http://www.brokescholar.com>  
The College Board – <http://www.collegeboard.com>  
Finaid – <http://www.finaid.org>

What's so great about these sites? They are *free!* Yes, there are other benefits, too. The site sponsors index literally millions of scholarships and you can usually enter in personal criteria that help their systems match scholarships to your specific characteristics.



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## Popular Resources

Once you've logged onto one of the search engines and entered your characteristics, spend a good bit of time browsing. Its surprising how many opportunities there are out there, if you just take the time to look.

Once you've looked, make sure you follow through with some action. If you see a scholarship that might be a potential match for you, print out the information immediately and add it to the folder of information you've already compiled (the one with local, area, regional, and state opportunities).

Also, if the site offers an opportunity to sign up for a newsletter or e-mail reminder, go for it! Many of the sites will send out notices each time a new scholarship is added that matches the criteria you've entered.



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## Uncharted Territory

Once you've exhausted your local, area, regional and state resources and you've maxed out your hits using the online search engines, its time to begin exploring additional potential alternatives.

There's really something to be said for the concept of "boldly going where no man [or woman] has gone before."

Sit down and brainstorm for a bit. What haven't you considered? Did you leave out an entity or organization when you made your map? Were your matching criteria too narrow? Did you spend enough time searching and did you look far enough afield for funding? Hmm... what are some of the other options open to you?



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## Uncharted Territory

Have you thought about Individual Development Accounts or Service-Learning Programs? No, these aren't really scholarship programs, but they offer similar opportunities.

The City of San Antonio has an Individual Development Account available to help eligible students/families save for educational expenses. The way this works is the student/family deposits \$1 into a special savings account and the city deposits \$4 matching dollars. It's a great opportunity for students/families who qualify. For more information, visit <http://www.sanantonio.gov/communit/ida/idamain.asp?res=1024&ver=true>.



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## Uncharted Territory

Service-learning opportunities, such as those offered by AmeriCorps (a program sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service) offer volunteers the opportunity to pay educational expenses at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans. The award - recently renamed the Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards after Eli Segal, one of the pioneers of the national service movement and the first CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service - is \$4,725 for a year of full-time service, and is prorated for part-time. You have up to seven years after your term of service has ended to claim the award.

For more information on this program, visit [http://www.americorps.org/for\\_individuals/benefits/index.asp](http://www.americorps.org/for_individuals/benefits/index.asp).



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## Uncharted Territory

Service-learning opportunities are also available through the Peace Corps. Peace Corps has established partnerships with colleges and universities across the U.S. that offer academic credit and financial incentives to Volunteers during or after Peace Corps service. Master's International allows you to incorporate Peace Corps service into a master's degree program at more than 40 colleges and universities. And the Fellows/USA program offers returning Volunteers scholarships or reduced tuition at more than 30 participating schools.

For more information on this program, visit <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm>.



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## Wrap up and review

The objective of this course was to provide you with the information you need to develop a map for your personal scholarship search.

We've provided you with information on some of the finer points of outside scholarships—what they are, who funds them, their value, and how it impacts your financial aid on campus.

We've also given you suggestions for exploring and mapping your personal scholarship resources; and for mapping out visits to popular scholarship search destinations.

Finally, we've provided you with some tips and hints on how to proceed once you've exhausted all of your known resources.



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## Wrap up and review

If you would like additional information on scholarship opportunities available to UIW students or if you would like some guidance or assistance in locating outside scholarship opportunities, visit the Resource Center inside the UIW Office of Financial Assistance.

We're located in the Watson Enrollment Center on Broadway, across the street from the main campus (between Bill Miller's and Denny's). Counselors are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 – 5:00; and our resource computers are available for student use until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Appointments are not required to visit with a counselor.



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## Thank you!

We hope you found this online workshop helpful! If you'd like to see other topics covered, send us an e-mail. Your thoughts and comments are always appreciated.

Sincerely,

UIW Office of Financial Assistance  
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San Antonio, TX 78209  
e-mail: [finaid@uiwtx.edu](mailto:finaid@uiwtx.edu)



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