Scholarship 101

DON’T BREAK THE BANK!
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Overview

- Why Apply for Scholarships?
- Sources of Scholarships
- Tips for Success
- The General Scholarship Application (GSA)
- What about graduate school scholarships?
Is it worth my time to apply?

There IS money out there!

Last year, CWU students earned

$2,640,551.46

In private donor scholarships

$636,862.67

In CWU scholarships
That’s a total of

$3,277,414.13.88

Which equals in-state tuition ($6,201) for

528 students
Scholarship Hunting

Scholarship hunting is a skill set that will come in handy after graduation:

- Meet an application deadline
- Follow application instructions closely
- Identify your strengths and express them to others
  - Prepare materials for others’ review
- Compete against other qualified candidates
- Learn to persevere through disappointment
It starts early!

Most scholarship deadlines are from October to March for funds to be used the following school year.
Some Helpful Hints

• Aim to apply for one scholarship per month throughout the academic year (or more!)

• Create a separate e-mail account to handle all your scholarship search stuff
So, HOW do I get scholarships?!

- Web Searches
- CWU Scholarships
- Networking
- Community Involvement
## Two Main Sources of Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private Donors</th>
<th>Institutional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community-Based</td>
<td>CWU General Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Awards</td>
<td>Scholarship Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Affiliation</td>
<td>Departmental Awards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community-Based Scholarships

- Local groups give scholarships to students in their own town/area
- Dollars for Scholars
- Service Organizations like Kiwanis or Rotary
- Fraternal Orders/Masonic Lodges
- Community Education Foundations
Community-Based Scholarships

- Many of these community-based organizations don’t come up in web-based scholarship searches.

- The easiest way to find out about these scholarships is to ask around!
Group Affiliation

- Ethnic Groups
- Gender Groups
- Religious Groups
- Labor Unions
- Clubs
- Social Organizations
- Political Organizations
National Awards

- National Educational Foundations such as the National Merit Scholars or Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Usually merit- or need-based
- Many large awards
- Competitive
How do I find scholarships I might qualify for?

Search the Web

- [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org)
- A non-profit scholarship matching service
- Enter your criteria and the search will return scholarships that you qualify for

- [www.cwu.edu/~scholar/](http://www.cwu.edu/~scholar/)
- Upcoming deadlines for outside scholarships
- Announcements of brand-new CWU scholarships
Create your profile

Complete your profile

In order for us to give you the best scholarship matches, you will need to complete your profile.

Create your profile
Scholarship Matches Just For You

The following matches are based on your profile and the scholarship requirements. A more complete profile will result in better scholarship matches and may show more scholarships that you qualify for.

My Scholarships of Interest

- Matched scholarship not yet saved to My Scholarships of Interest list
- Scholarship is saved to My Scholarships of Interest list

Check your matches
Complete your applications
Other Websites for Scholarship Searches

www.fastweb.com
www.scholarships.com
www.studentscholarshipsearch.com
www.finaid.org/scholarships
www.freeeducationguide.com
www.scholarshipexperts.com
www.scholarships4school.com
Success Stories

Please welcome

REESA NELSON

Here to talk about her experience as a successful scholarship applicant
### REESA’S TIPS FOR ORGANIZATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Criteria</th>
<th>#1</th>
<th>#2</th>
<th>#3</th>
<th>#4</th>
<th>#5</th>
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<td>Giving back</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More Scholarship Opportunities

From the Douglas Honors College
please welcome

Chris Denison
to talk about DHC Scholarships
Institutional Scholarships

IT’S TIME TO COMPLETE

THE GSA
• CWU Foundation raises funds

• October 1st – February 1st every year

• ONE Application through your Safari Account = Dozens of awards
Visit www.cwu.edu/~scholar to view scholarship listings!
CWU Scholarship Office Website

Navigation from www.cwu.edu
All roads lead to the GSA!
Step 1: READ THE LISTINGS!

CWU GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (GSA) INSTRUCTIONS

The CWU General Scholarship Application is available October 1st through February 1st. Check out the links below for more information on the GSA.

GSA Scholarship Listings

- Step-By-Step Guide to Completing the
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Information for new incoming Freshman/Transfer students
- Log in to Wildcat Connection to complete the GSA

E-mail the Scholarship Office with questions/concerns

Read me! Use me! Get to know me!
**Step 1: READ THE LISTINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ronald &amp; Pauline Sargent Scholarship</td>
<td>2011-2012 award amount to be determined</td>
<td>02-01-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say P. Kelly Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald &amp; Verna Duncan Community Service Scholarship</td>
<td>2011-2012 award amount to be determined</td>
<td>02-01-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Meyer Scholarship</td>
<td>2011-2012 award amount to be determined</td>
<td>02-01-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Drinkwater Leadership Scholarship</td>
<td>2011-2012 award amount to be determined</td>
<td>02-01-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamola Honors Scholarship</td>
<td>2011-2012 award amount to be determined</td>
<td>02-01-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross San-Soucie Campus Involvement Scholarship</td>
<td>2011-2012 award amount to be determined</td>
<td>02-01-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Government Scholarship</td>
<td>2011-2012 award amount to be determined</td>
<td>02-01-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnfjord Multidisciplinary Scholarship</td>
<td>2011-2012 award amount to be determined</td>
<td>02-01-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 1: READ THE LISTINGS!

Fred Meyer Scholarship

Deadline: February 1, 2011

Award amount: 2011-2012 award amount to be determined

Requirements:
- Current CWU students and incoming transfer students admitted to CWU by February 1st for the upcoming Fall Term
- Sophomore, junior, or senior standing
- Minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA
- Demonstrated leadership through community service, student clubs, organizations, or other activities

Application Process:
1. Complete the online CWU General Scholarship Application

2. Submit the following Additional Materials:
   - A 500-word essay describing your leadership experience in community service, student clubs, organizations, or other activities, and how your experiences have developed your leadership skills
   - Two (2) letters of recommendation from faculty, community leaders, and/or program advisors
Step 2: MAKE YOUR LIST

Make a list (or print the descriptions) of each scholarship you qualify for that requires supplemental materials.
### Step 2: MAKE YOUR LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requires Materials (Example)</th>
<th>Does Not Require Materials (Example)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fred Meyer Scholarship</td>
<td>• Dale &amp; Dorothy Jaques Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• McIntyre-Smith Scholarship</td>
<td>• Leona Hickman Educational Trust Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Anonymous in Science &amp; Literature Scholarship</td>
<td>• Bill &amp; Lora Stovall Scholarship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3: PREPARE YOUR MATERIALS

- Essays
- Letters of Recommendation
- Resumes
- Various Documentation
Strategies for Successful Essay Writing

- Make sure you qualify for the award
- Start early—don’t write your essay at the last minute
- Think about what everyone else will write…and then write something different
- Ask for help from the Writing Center
Step 4: COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION

Download the PDF step-by-step Guide

CWU GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (GSA) INSTRUCTIONS

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- Step-By-Step Guide to Completing the GSA
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Information for new incoming Freshman/Transfer students
- Log in to Wildcat Connection to complete the GSA
- E-mail the Scholarship Office with questions

Related Links

- The CWU GSA
- Outside Scholarships
- Prospective Students
- Current Students
- Information for Scholarship Donors
- Dollars for Scholars Collegiate Partnership

Everything you need to know about completing the GSA!
Step 4: COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION

- Log into your Wildcat Connection

- Go to Safari

- Navigation: Self Service

  Campus Finances

  Scholarship Application
Step 4: COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION

- Read the instructions page first
- Click Continue to access the 7 tabs of data
TAB 1: Personal Data

You can’t make changes on this tab...all info is pulled from your student record.
• Demographics
• GPA
• Major
• Intended Major
• Financial Aid info
Select all the sentences that apply to you from the following:

- I am of Norwegian heritage.
- I am a 1st generation student; none of my parents or guardians received a bachelor's degree.
- I am or was a foster child and will provide official documentation to that effect.
- I am a single parent.
- I have a disability.
- My parent/legal guardian has died.
- My step/parent or guardian has died.
- I am a member or son/daughter of a member of the Eastern Star.
- I am a Phi Theta Kappa member.

(check all that apply to you)
Get familiar with...

The magnifying glass icon

- Refer to the step-by-step guide for how to look up pre-determined categories
Get familiar with...

The Plus Sign

- Refer to the step-by-step guide for how to add extra information to your application
TAB 3: High School Activities

Complete this tab, even though you are now in college

Pre-determined categories—use magnifying glass icon to look up your activities (use free-form description area to enhance the information)

Select your grade levels that apply to the activity

Click the plus sign to add more categories
### TAB 3: High School Activities

Please enter all offices and positions of leadership, recognitions and awards, and other paid activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Type</th>
<th>Office/Position of Leadership/Awards</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Yr in School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OA</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>FREE FORM DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OA</td>
<td>JOWK</td>
<td>FREE FORM DESCRIPTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>COFP</td>
<td>Certificate of Proficiency in basic first aid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>GBST</td>
<td>Girl's/Boy's State</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Save
TAB 4: College Activities

Same format as the High School Activities Tab

Pre-determined categories—use magnifying glass icon to look up your activities (use free-form description area to enhance the information)

Select your grade levels that apply to the activity

Click the plus sign to add more categories
TAB 5: Volunteer Activities

Free-form entry of information

Dates of service must be in MM/DD/YYYY format
TAB 6: Scholarship Selections

Use your friends, the magnifying glass and the plus sign, to find your scholarships.

Refer to your list of scholarships that you qualify for that require supplemental materials.

NEW FEATURE THIS YEAR: Attach your documents directly to your application!
## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic Attachments</th>
<th>Paper or E-mail Submission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quicker</td>
<td>Wastes paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easier</td>
<td>Cost of postage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editable</td>
<td>Unsure whether we received it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save on postage</td>
<td>Can’t make edits once you turn it in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assurance that we received it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Attach Word or PDF files

- **Essays:** Word file or PDF
- **Letters of Recommendation:** PDF of scanned letter with original signature and letterhead
- **Documentation:** Scanned PDF

Refer to step-by-step guide if you have trouble attaching!
TAB 7: Certification

Optional checkbox: Authorize CWU to publicize your name if you win

You MUST click “Submit” on this tab to complete your application

Come back and edit as many times as you want before February 1st

You’ll receive e-mail confirmation of completion
CONGRATULATIONS!

That’s all you need to do to apply for GSA Scholarships!
Q: How soon will I know if I won a scholarship?
A: Mid-June at the latest

Q: What are my chances of winning?
A: It varies from scholarship to scholarship; ones that require supplemental materials always have fewer applicants.

Q: Do I have to reapply every year?
A: Yes, you do, but some of your application data is saved.
Q: How will I be notified if I’ve won?
A: Letter in the mail between Feb and mid-June

Q: How will I be notified if I haven’t won?
A: Letter in the mail in late June

Q: Can I call and ask for awarding information?
A: No, we will not answer any questions about the process until it is complete in mid-June

Q: Is there a paper application I can fill out instead?
A: No, the online application is the only one
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is the GSA for both Grads and Undergrads?
A: Yes, there are a few scholarships for grad students; most are for undergrads

Q: If I win a scholarship and transfer to another school, can I take it with me?
A: No, it can only be used at CWU

Q: Can I use the scholarship for this current year?
A: No, it’s only good for 2011-2012
Q: I don’t see any scholarships for my major on the GSA; does that mean there aren’t any for me?
A: Check with your department

Q: Where do I get info on how scholarships affect my financial aid package?
A: Visit the Financial Aid Office’s website at www.cwu.edu/~finaid

Q: If I need help filling out my GSA, where do I go?
A: Consult the step-by-step guide; come to Barge Hall 102
Visit us in Barge Hall Room 102

We’re on the ground floor of Barge, right across the hall from Financial Aid
Come use our computers to fill out your GSA or search for scholarships

Barge Hall 102
We have friendly and helpful students and staff to assist you!

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
The time to look into graduate school is NOW!

Many graduate programs offer campus-based assistanceships, tuition waivers, etc.

Many grad programs have money for you from government grants—apply for those funds directly through the school you plan to attend
WHAT IF I’M GRADUATING THIS YEAR?

Most scholarships for grad students are program-specific

Do a web search for graduate scholarships for your particular area of study

Beef up on your writing skills—grad school scholarships have a much higher standard and are much more competitive!
What we’ve learned today

- It pays to apply for scholarships
- Scholarship hunting season is during the fall and winter
- The Web is a great search tool, but not the only tool
- It takes time and energy to find the right scholarship for you
- The GSA is all online and it’s easy to complete!
Ready to Get Started Applying?! 

Go check out the GSA listings!

Check out the private donor scholarships listed on the handout at the back of the Theater

You can apply for all of those listed in the handout online at the donor websites
Got a Question?

5-10 minute Q & A with our panel
Handouts Available at the back of the Theater

- Scholarship Search Information & Upcoming Deadlines
- Info on theWashBoard.org
- Top 10 Financial Aid Tips & Avoiding Scholarship Scams
Happy Scholarship Hunting!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

JENNA HYATT, DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE LIFE & NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

NATALIE ANDRUS, SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT

CHRIS DENISON, DOUGLAS HONORS COLLEGE