

Maximize your chances of receiving scholarships

DELAWARE STUDENT
SUCCESS



Begin searching for scholarships as early as possible

- ✓ Don't wait until January of your senior year to start looking.
- ✓ Pay attention to scholarship deadlines and keep a checklist of application closing dates.
- ✓ File your FAFSA early. Many scholarships require it. FAFSA opens Oct. 1.
- ✓ Don't submit at the application deadline to guard against computer or other technical issues.

Plan for letters of recommendation

- ✓ Choose your recommender carefully. It should be someone who knows you well and can speak to your accomplishments.
- ✓ Give them plenty of time and include a student bio or resume outlining your accomplishments and activities.
- ✓ The best letters of recommendation show the student's personality and character.

Apply for local scholarships

- ✓ Many communities offer scholarships through clubs, organizations or small businesses.
- ✓ The chances of winning a local scholarship may be greater because they are open to a smaller group of students.
- ✓ Check with your school counselor for scholarships tied to your school and community.
- ✓ Ask relatives if they know of scholarships through their employers, clubs and organizations.



Apply for scholarships with smaller amounts

- ✓ Don't overlook smaller scholarships. Several \$500 scholarships can add up.
- ✓ Larger scholarships can be the most competitive.
- ✓ The amount of scholarships you can apply to or win is unlimited.

Don't avoid scholarships that require an essay

- ✓ Some students avoid scholarships that require more work. That could shrink the application pool and improve your chances of winning.
- ✓ If you have two to four really good scholarship essays, edit and reuse those essays for multiple scholarship applications.
- ✓ Edit the essay for each new scholarship essay question.

Write a winning scholarship essay

- ✓ Follow the essay word limit. Exceeding that might disqualify you.
- ✓ Proofread the essay to ensure you have no spelling or grammar mistakes.
- ✓ Answer any questions in the essay prompt.
- ✓ Find a unique perspective on the essay prompt and make your essay stand out. Be personal and passionate.

Apply for many scholarships and stay organized

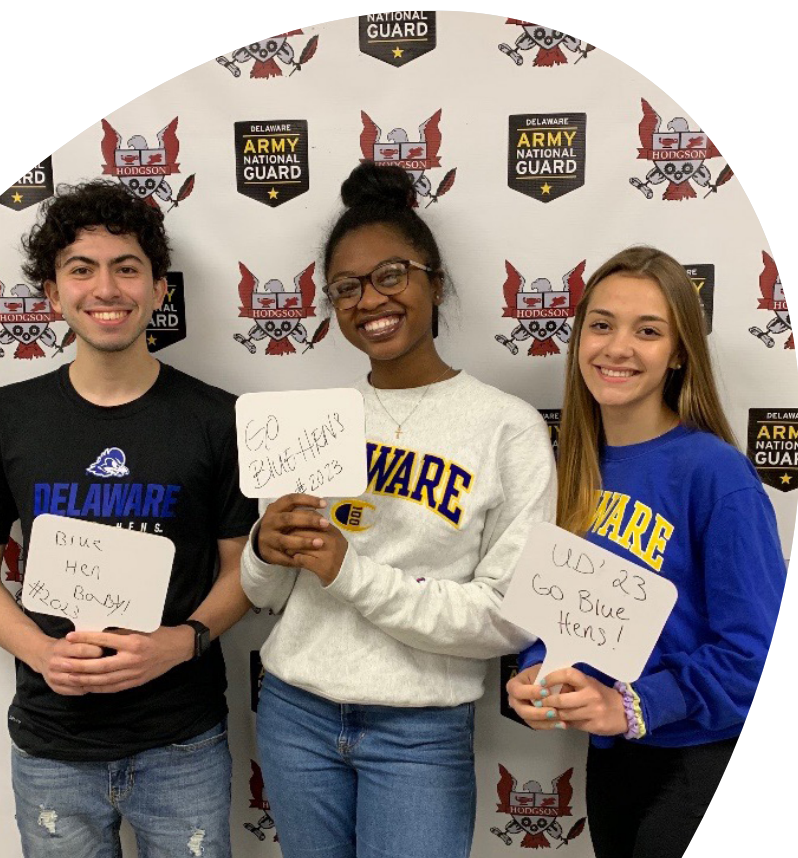
- ✓ Apply for 20 to 30 or more scholarships.
- ✓ Treat applying like a part-time job. It's an investment in your future.
- ✓ Set aside regular times to look for and apply to scholarships, once a week, an hour each day, whatever works best for your schedule.
- ✓ Stay organized. Use a calendar and a checklist. Know the scholarship deadlines.

Don't be discouraged if you don't win right away

- ✓ Not everyone is guaranteed to win a scholarship.
- ✓ The more you apply for, the better your chances of winning a scholarship.
- ✓ Keep searching for scholarships.
- ✓ Apply for scholarships in different categories that you may qualify for, such as merit, athletic or artistic.

Beware of scholarship scams

- ✓ Requests for personal information: A legitimate scholarship will never ask for personal information such as a social security number.
- ✓ Fees: A true scholarship will not charge a fee to submit an application.
- ✓ Guarantees to win: A legitimate scholarship will not guarantee that you will win. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- ✓ Application is missing sponsor information: You should always be able to find a sponsor's contact information in the application. If you can't find that information, be wary.



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