

There are many resources for researching and applying for scholarships. We recommend using this guide in conjunction with others you might find online. Remember there are folks available to help you navigate this process!

Please note it is critical to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even if you don't think you'll qualify, so you may be reviewed or opted into scholarships that are merit or financial need based that you wouldn't be considered for unless that process is completed.

Timeline

It's best to start the scholarship research and application process about one year before you need the money. Standard timelines for the U are that scholarships will be listed December through March for the fall semester. However, every scholarship is different, so still keep an eye out even if it isn't "scholarship season".

Scholarship Search – on-campus

Almost all scholarship opportunities are posted on the campus database: [AcademicWorks](#). Once you are an admitted student, you will be able to login to the system and create a general application. Completing this step will automatically consider you for some opportunities, while others will ask for additional information, such as references, etc. This will be the best place to look for funding available through various campus-supported outlets.

[Women's Resource Center](#) – They have multiple scholarships available for all gender identities. Two for non-traditional students are Osher Re-entry and Boundless Opportunity.

[Alumni Association](#) – The Emeritus Alumni Board opportunity may be applicable to returning U students.

Scholarship Search – Nationwide (not affiliated with the university)

Check out the following websites for details and deadlines on opportunities available outside of the U:

[Scholarships.com](#) – Filtered by non-traditional student

[The Community Foundation of Utah](#)

[Executive Women's International - Chapter of Salt Lake City](#)

[The Women's Independence Scholarship Program](#)

[Live Your Dream Foundation](#) - Scholarships for Single Mothers

[Gump & Ayers Scholarship Application](#) - Scholarship for Single Mothers (for more information contact peoutah.gumpayers@gmail.com or visit their website <http://www.peoutah.org/>)

Gathering Required Documents

Be sure to review the instructions carefully, specifically what each scholarship is asking for. Some may just need an application, while others may ask for you to demonstrate financial need or submit transcripts.

Personal Statement

If a scholarship requires a personal statement, your application will be more competitive if you take the time to tailor it to that specific opportunity. It's suggested to have a general statement prepared that you can adjust, as necessary. Pay attention to word or page limits, but typically, the shorter, the better. Here is a good outline to work with:

Who are you now?

What experiences have been important in your development?

What are your future goals and what is your mission in pursuing these?

Why do you want this particular partnership opportunity?

[The Writing Center](#) is available to help you create, edit and finalize a personal statement either in-person or online.

Letters of Reference

If letters of reference are necessary, does the scholarship specify who the letters must come from? Oftentimes committees want to see a letter from a professor speaking to your academic abilities but sometimes it can be an advisor, boss, or colleague. Ask this person if they will write you a letter of reference as far in advance as possible. Be sure to share what the opportunity is, why you think you're a good fit for it, how they submit the letter (online or hardcopy), and when you need it by. You may also want to consider general letters of support that you can use for multiple opportunities, if appropriate.

Contact us

This is a ton of information and there is a lot to consider when researching and applying for scholarships. Annie Friedman is your Student Success Advocate who can assist in navigating this process. Feel free to reach out to her at annie.friedman@utah.edu or call/text 385-226-7492.