Scholarship Search Tips

Student Financial Services is dedicated to assisting you lower your student loan indebtedness. To do so we created and maintain the Scholarship Search Engine that lists over 150 medical school specific scholarships. The listed scholarships are open all students and have deadlines throughout the year. While our list is a good starting point we encourage you to search elsewhere for additional sources of funding. Funding is out there you just have to be willing to search for it.

Types of Funding

While it is great to find money anywhere and everywhere, it is helpful to know what type of funds you are applying for.

- **Scholarships (Free Money)**
  - Require you be enrolled and meet the scholarship’s fund eligibility requirements
  - Will vary by eligibility requirements, award amounts and how awards are processed
  - May require you show financial need

- **Scholarship/Loans funds (Forgivable Loan)**
  - May have a service commitment or other conditions to meet
  - May have low to no interest
  - Service commitment clause or other conditions

- **Research and Fellowship Grants**
  - Require a commitment to research in a specific area or topic
  - Similar to the scholarship/loans
  - Awarded when you have completed your service commitment

Build your Portfolio

To make applying for scholarships less time consuming we suggest you gather the items most requested on the various scholarship applications. It may also be beneficial to keep these items/documents in both paper form and electronic.

Gather things like:

1. Academic transcripts (include undergrad and graduate)
   a. Be aware of transcript request processes
2. Copies of diplomas
3. Copies of honors, awards or certificates
4. Personal statements
5. Curriculum Vitae
6. Letters of recommendation
   a. When requesting letters of recommendation, give the writer plenty of notice
7. Compile all of the documents in a location that is easily accessible, and do not forget to update it frequently

Finding Scholarships

To find and apply for scholarships use multiple method of searching. Since scholarship searching can be very time consuming, you may want to consider recruiting family members to help you search. Another set of eyes gives you the possibility of finding something that is specific to you. Use any affiliation that you or your family has, like parents job, church or social groups, etc. Try searching by city, state, high school graduated from, undergraduate school or specialty of medicine you want to practice in.

Methods of Searching:

1. Scholarship Search Engine
2. Google search for scholarships specific to you
3. AAMC also has a scholarship search engine
4. Search by religious affiliations of you or your family
5. Social groups you or your family members have been a member of
6. Look to professional affiliations
7. State and local government
8. Private foundations
9. Drug companies
10. Ethnic foundations

Application tips

Once you find and apply to a scholarship here are some tips:

- Stick to their deadlines
- Reapply or renew every year
- Thoroughly read the application
- Submit only completed applications
- Keep a copy of what you have submitted to each scholarship
- Consider getting a copy of the previous/current application so that you can gather the information that was requested in preparation for the next application cycle
- Call the sponsoring organization to get clarification if you have questions

If you are lucky enough to be the recipient of a scholarship, write thank you notes (even if not required): it helps to make a lasting positive impression. If the scholarship sponsor requests that you participate in an event, go to the event. It’s a great chance to start building your network of other medical professionals. You may get to know not only the donor of the scholarship fund, but also other important people in the field of medicine you hope to practice.