Scholarship Workshop

What you should know when applying for external scholarships
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Objectives

- Where to find the WSU Online Scholarship Application, what’s required, and when it is due
- Techniques to balance and incorporate external scholarship searching into busy schedule
- Where to start looking for external scholarships
- Ways to make your external scholarship applications more competitive
- How to distinguish legitimate external scholarships from potential scams
$1,000 Travel Assistance Scholarship
Additional 3rd Party Scholarships for $1200-1400
Many, many more!

The world is your oyster! Come talk to UCIE and see how you can earn WSU credit and explore the world!
Raider Connect

Raider Connect is a student’s primary point of contact for enrollment services previously delivered through the Offices of the Registrar, Bursar/Student Accounts, and Financial Aid.

Wright.edu/raider-connect

- Information about your Financial Aid
- Access to the Academic Calendar
- Important Upcoming Events in Financial aid/Student Accounts/Registration
- Tuition and other costs at Wright State
- Money Management
  - Loan information
  - Cost Estimator
- Forms
- Deadlines
- Transcripts
- Enrollment Verification
- Scholarships!!
Undergraduate and graduate students (first-year, continuing, and transfer) can search for multiple donor-based scholarships funded through the Wright State University Foundation and also scholarships founded by the University.

More than 500 donor-based scholarship opportunity!

Deadline is Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. (EST)

An essay is needed for all scholarships
  – Utilize the Wright State University Writing Center

At least one reference is required
  – Recommendation letters are due March 04, 2016 at 11:50 p.m. (EST)

http://www.wright.edu/financialaid/wings/scholarships/wsu-online-common-application-information.html
WSU Online Scholarship Application

• Winners will be notified via email by May 16th
  – Email will be generic indicating to winners that an award has been credited to their account
  – Some students may receive email during Summer

• You will NOT be notified if you did not win a scholarship

• If wanting to know who/where your scholarship came from or have any other scholarship related questions, email scholarships@wright.edu
  – A thank you letter is highly recommended
External Scholarships
Think External Scholarships Aren’t Worth It?!

$500 Scholarship

• Get a part time job
  – It’ll take you 62.5 hours at $8/hour to make $500 and that’s before taxes
  – Compare this to spending a couple hours on an application

• Borrow the $500
  – You’ll have to pay that money back with interest tacked on
  – Could potentially add an extra $500 onto balance
Where Should I Look?

Don’t pay someone to find you scholarships when you can do it for free!
Where Should I Look?

Scholarship Foundations

http://www.wright.edu/raider-connect/financial-aid/external-scholarship-opportunities
A Balancing Act

- Starting your search
  - Keep your profiles updated
  - Plan designated time for scholarship searching
  - Develop a suite of generic reusable materials
  - The more you apply for, the better your odds are of winning

- Organization
  - Create a schedule based on deadlines of scholarships
  - Schedule dates for each draft
  - Don’t wait until last minute

- Stay Committed
  - Pick a location where you’ll be on task
  - Spacing out searches
7 C’s of Winning External Scholarships

1. Content
   • Utilize resources like books, testimonials of scholarship winners, and websites to learn how to successful apply for scholarships

2. Commitment
   • The more you apply to, the better your chances of winning
   • It’s vital that you never give up applying

3. Communicate
   • Let others around you know you’re looking for scholarship opportunities
   • Seek opportunities to gain experiences that scholarship providers will value
   • Let mentors, teachers, and guidance counselors know so they can provide letters of recommendation to include with your applications

4. Causes
   • Volunteer for causes you’re passionate about
     • You’re likely to stick with it longer if it’s a cause you actually care about
   • Gives back to community, looks great to scholarship providers and makes you a better rounded individual overall
5. Create
- If opportunities aren’t presenting themselves, create them
- Taking initiatives looks great and you will likely enjoy participating in it
- Helps show scholarship providers that you’re willing to take on leadership roles when necessary

6. Compliment
- Don’t be afraid to toot your own horn!
- Achievements are something to be proud of and something scholarship providers should be aware of
- Each achievement gives you an extra edge and will help distinguish you from the competition

7. Curriculum
- Balance your curriculum by taking a mix of more and less challenging courses
- If you balance your courses, you’re much more likely to be able to maintain a higher GPA since your coursework will be manageable
  - A lot of scholarships do consider your grade point average!
How External Scholarships are Judged

First Glance

• Usually 15 to 30 seconds
• Most applications don’t get past this quick but important stage
• Questions to ask yourself:
  • Do you qualify?
  • Is your application neat?
  • Are all of the questions answered?
  • Are all the required documents included?
    • Ex: Transcript, references, photographs, etc.
How External Scholarships are Judged

Second Cut

- Judges separate the “OK” from the “great”
- Applications that make it through have thorough and well-thought-out responses
- Make sure responses are complete and answer the questions fully
- Check grammar and spelling
- Print out hard copy and review
How External Scholarships are Judged

Final Decision

- Judges pay special attention to:
  - Academics
    - Competitive GPA
    - How challenging your course load and school are
    - Are you taking the right courses to reach your goals?
      - How well did you do in these courses?
  - Leadership
    - Look for a range of leadership positions
  - Service
    - Have you been continuous in your volunteer efforts?
    - If volunteer work is required by your school, how did you go above and beyond those requirements?
Final Decision

- Judges pay special attention to:
  - Creativity
    - Play instrument? Write stories? Plan a new event?
    - Have you won any awards?
  - Special Circumstances
    - Have you overcome any obstacles to achieve your goals?
    - How have you achieved all that you’ve done, in spite of the roadblocks you’ve encountered?
External Scholarship Scam

Red Flags

• Guarantees
  • Nobody representing a legitimate scholarship can guarantee that you’ll win

• Unsolicited Scholarship Offers
  • Be careful if someone contacts you offering you a scholarship that you never requested information about

• Limited time offers
  • Legitimate providers will not pressure students into applying
  • It is likely a scam if you ever feel pressured in a “now or never” scenario

• Fees
  • Applying for legitimate scholarships does not cost money
Scholarship Scam Red Flags

- Gathering Very Personal Information
  - A scholarship provider should not be asking for personal information like SSN
  - They may require this information from winners, however it should not be required at the time of application

- Eligibility
  - Any scholarship that claims to be all-encompassing with absolutely no exceptions should raise a red flag
  - Legitimate scholarships always have some type of eligibility requirement such as year in school, grades, age, etc.

- Don’t call us, we’ll call you
  - Scholarship providers should give you contact information to reach them if you have any questions
  - Legitimate scholarship providers don’t have anything to hide whereas scammers do
You Won! Now What?

- Send a thank you letter to the donor
  - Check for grammar, make it personalized, and handwrite when possible

- External scholarship checks can be mailed to or dropped off at Raider Connect
  - Funds will not be credited to account until the check has been received
  - The full amount of the check will be applied to the current term the student is registered and cannot be dispersed over future terms

- Please make checks payable to Wright State University
  - If the check is made payable to the student, the student must endorse the check
  - Include the student’s name, UID #, or last four digits of their Social Security Number on the check or in a letter attached to the check
1. Apply only if you are eligible
2. Complete the application in full
3. Follow directions
4. Neatness counts
5. Write an essay that makes a strong impression
6. Watch all deadlines
7. Make sure your application gets where it needs to go
8. Keep a backup file in case anything goes wrong
9. Give it a final once-over before submitting
10. Ask for help if you need it
SMART Goal

**Specific**

Goal #1: I want to win scholarships.

**Measurable**

Goal #2: I will increase my chances of winning external scholarships by dedicating the first Sunday of each month to scholarship searching. On those Sundays, I will go to the library by myself for two hours so that I can focus.

**Attainable**

**Relevant**

**Time Bound**
Questions?
Social Media

- Follow Us!

- Daily posts with deadlines, live updates, and other important info

- Very interactive – we respond to students within 24 hours

- Free giveaways and Twitter contests

@Raider_Connect

Wright State Raider Connect
Need Help? Contact Us! 😊

Hours: 8:30 am-5:00 pm Mon-Thurs
       9:30 am-5:00 pm Fri

Telephone: 937-775-4000

Web site: www.wright.edu/raider-connect

E-mail: raiderconnect@wright.edu

Walk-in availability to assist you

@Raider_Connect   Wright State Raider Connect
Thank You

Good Luck!
References


