

- Sources of scholarship information
- Surfing the Web for scholarships

Surfing for Scholarships

IUPUI Undergraduates are awarded over 4 million in institutional scholarships annually!

On campus and off-campus--scholarships are increasingly part of the financial package for many students to help pay for college. Many of these scholarships come from the private sector. IUPUI students are applying and being awarded private sector scholarships more than ever. For students looking to help fund their undergraduate education, for many students who are trying to balance work, family commitments and school, scholarships provide a means of paying for college instead of taking out loans or increasing their workloads.

Where can you find out about scholarships?

There are several different sources for uncovering scholarship information. A strategy combining several of these sources increases one's chances of being awarded a scholarship, when paired with persistence and respectable grades.

The Scholarship Office has several sources of scholarship information that IUPUI students should check out.

1. **The Scholarship Central Website** at www.iupui.edu/~scentral/ This web site will explain our scholarship process, allow you to download

scholarship applications. It also provides access for you to join one of our informational listservs, **Update Me** (for incoming freshman) or **Scholarship News** (current students/transfer students). Joining either listserv will enable the Scholarship Office to update you on upcoming scholarship deadlines and other pertinent scholarship information.

2. The **Scholarship Bulletin Board**, located outside of the Scholarship Office of Cavanaugh Hall, Room 103, contains updated information on private sector and IUPUI based scholarships.

There are also private sector scholarship search websites available. One of these is FASTWEB with the web address <http://fastweb.com>. Students are advised to utilize this free resource as opposed to using scholarship services that charge a fee. Many IUPUI students have received scholarships using this database!

3. Scholarship applications are available at the **Office of Students Scholarships** located in Cavanaugh Hall, Room 103 and University College 2001K. Visit one of our office locations to pick up an

application, ask questions about your scholarship eligibility and to obtain information on private sector scholarships. Scholarship deadlines at IUPUI are usually in the early spring, so early application for admission to IUPUI and early scholarship applications are important.

High School students should be thinking about both admission and scholarship applications early in their high school years: colleges are impressed with well-rounded students who maintain respectable grades and participate in and out of school activities, including community service experiences.

4. Regular postings on **JAGNEWS** will announce new scholarship opportunities.

Increasing
your
chances...

Scholarships come from many sources--private, civic and community organizations as well as from universities.

The keys to increasing your chances for scholarships are:

- Check out scholarship opportunities as early as possible--we recommend 6-months to a year prior to the beginning of the school year for which you are seeking scholarship assistance.
- Check out the up-to-date, **FREE** scholarship searching databases like FastWeb.com. Do at least 2 searches in each database to maximize your results.
- Check out the scholarship resource books in your local libraries or book stores. Be sure to get the most recent editions as scholarship information is constantly changing.
- With your list of possible matches, send them a letter (pre-addressed form letters are available on FastWeb) requesting applications and information be sent to you.
- Fill out applications. Remember: this is like a job interview and first impressions are important. Type or print neatly, don't use pencil, fill in all the blanks, read the instructions several times and follow directions. Following the directions are a part of your scholarship application process!
- Check with your local university, at least 9 months prior to your beginning semester, for admissions and scholarship applications and financial aid information. Universities give many scholarships, depending on the institution. There are scholarships for beginning freshman as well as for current students and upperclassmen. Often the admissions or financial aid offices administers their own scholarships, but check for separate scholarships offered by individual schools or academic departments within a university as well. Ask if the college has a comprehensive scholarship guide or where you can get more information

on all the programs. Many schools now have great websites with comprehensive information on financial aid and scholarships.

Community Service

Community Service is becoming very important to private sector scholarships as well as at many universities. IUPUI offers many scholarships that recognize and encourage participation in community service. Contact the Center for Service and Learning at (317) 278-2662 for more information on the different scholarships available to IUPUI students -- both current students and new incoming students.

Who gets scholarships?

Students, as many as 90%, are disqualified automatically from receiving scholarships because they do not apply. And you won't be considered if you don't apply. Persistence really pays off for some students.



Don't think you have the time to write an essay for a given scholarship application?

Think about this: if you spend two hours writing an essay for a \$500 scholarship and you receive it--that is \$250 per hour--the best hourly wage ever!

Many local scholarship providers receive only a few applications for their scholarships (the competition isn't always so stiff), **so** your chances are often better with such local competitions than with bigger and more broadly advertised national scholarships. Be sure to check with your church, community and civic organizations and parent's employers for scholarship opportunities!!

SAT/ACT scores: Should you retake?

Students might also want to consider retaking the SAT/ACT if they didn't do as well as they would like the first time they take these tests. These standardized test scores are often important criteria for college scholarships and if a student is close to the required score, they have a good chance of increasing the score if they retake the test, thus enabling them to then qualify for the scholarship. Our records show, of the scholarship applicants in the 1200 SAT (Math & Critical Reading sections only) or 26 ACT comprehensive score or above range, those who retook the test at least once raised their scores between 20-100 points. Students who took both the SAT and ACT standardized tests often qualified for more scholarships because they tended to perform better on one test than on the other. Many Indiana high school students score higher on the ACT standardized test. If you are within range of the scholarship cutoff and meet the other criteria for a given scholarship, you may want to consider taking the test again, especially after taking higher math classes. The chances of your score increasing are better if you are within 100 points of your target range score. Remember, practice makes perfect --the more you take these tests the higher your score will be! There are also many helpful study-guides available to assist you with improving your SAT/ACT scores. Just as with any other test, the more you study the higher your score will be. So, get a good night's sleep before taking the test, relax, concentrate and breathe!

We wish you the best of luck in all of your future academic endeavors!

- The IUPUI Office of Student Scholarships