Getting Scholarships

As you should know already, now is the premier time to be applying for scholarships. I hope you’re using the online resources, like collegeprowler.com, that you have been exposed to through Upward Bound, as well as your high school’s Guidance office to apply for the best scholarships for you.

To make the most of the time you dedicate to scholarship research and applications, you should apply to scholarships you think you are a decent candidate for. I highly recommend applying to many that you might get than a few you think you really might get.

From personal experience, I would suggest keeping a copy of your applications, and perhaps digital copies of your essays. You can often times reuse the information and essays from other applications to make doing easier and less time-consuming.

Do not count yourself out either. There are awards for low-income students, with or without academic achievement, that are practically made for you guys and girls! There are first-generation ones, too!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example: Award Letter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Pell Grant</strong></td>
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<td><strong>State Grant</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Iowa Tuition Grant – Fayette</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Queen Scholarship – Academic</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Special Upper Iowa Grant</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Federal Work-Study Eligibility</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fed Sub Stafford Loan</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Federal PLUS Loan</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL AMOUNT</strong></td>
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This award includes $18,318 of Gift Aid
This award includes $9,912 of Loan Eligibility

Cost to Attend: $28,595
Available for miscellaneous expenses: $5,750

Have you received your financial aid award letters, or scholarship awards? Send copies to the Upward Bound office as soon as possible!

When comparing financial aid award letters, make sure to recognize loans and your gap (Expected Cost minus award).
MARCH/APRIL CHECKLIST
- Continue Scholarship Search
- Check Guidance Office weekly
- Send/Track Scholarship Progress
- Collect Financial Aid Packages
- CALL UB office WHEN YOU get your award! – DO NOT SEND $$$
- Compare Colleges

MAY/JUNE CHECKLIST
- Make your College Decision by MAY 1, after evaluating Financial Aid packages! Don’t Send $$$!
- Make and Keep copies of everything!
- Apply for your Bridge Summer at Upward Bound

FOR THE SUMMER:
- Double Check Financial Aid
- Register for classes
- Prepare your resume to apply for Work Study positions at college
- Be at UB and get College Credit!

MAY 1st IS APPROACHING!

Which means you’ll be making your final decision - for college in the fall! It is such an overwhelming feeling, and you should all be preparing to make that decision. Hopefully some of these open questions and suggestions will help you think more in-depth about your future alma-mater. 😊

Which school is giving you the best financial award? Have you compared your loans as part of your cost to attend?

Have you visited the campuses? Did you feel comfortable? If you haven’t been able to visit, you can try virtual tours and looking at current students’ photos, or at least university photos.

Maybe you want to check out a course catalog, they are usually online! That way, you can see what exactly the college offers and requires of different majors.

You could look at the clubs and on-campus activities offered by the University as well, to see what kind of students you might be meeting!

Make sure to meet deadlines, as they are SO critical at these stages of the college and scholarship processes. Keep sending in copies of your acceptances, financial aid awards, and your scholarship awards! Contact the office with any questions, and remember DO NOT SEND money until you have talked to the office!

Best of luck in these processes, I have confidence in all of you!

Kris Kelley
UB Work Study Student

Questions? Call!
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Toll Free: 1 888 237 1667