

## **5 Ways to Find Money for a Debt-Free College Education**

**August 21, 2025**

**This handout will be stored at <https://scholarshiptigers.com/>**

**We will not go over everything in this handout. We hope this information helps you to finance your education with money rather than entirely with student debt.**

**Page breaks serve as pauses in the workshop.**

### **I. ADOPT THE SCHOLARSHIP MINDSET**

Adopt the Scholarship Mindset.

A) Apply, apply, apply.

B) You can learn from your efforts. You grow; you are not a fixed personality (entity). You are always growing and learning.

If your inner voice says, “I am not college material,” and you decide to quit college and not continue, you are believing you are a fixed personality and you are showing a **Fixed Mindset**.

If you pause and say, “Wait, I don’t know what I am doing currently. I can learn. I can get some help,” and then follow that up with persevering and asking for help, then you are showing a **Growth Mindset**.

C) You can predict the future, but you do not know the future.

**You practice not allowing FEAR**

**(False  
Expectations  
Appearing  
Real)**

**to stop you.**

You can learn and course correct in any moment, no matter how or what you feel.

The Scholarship Mindset is a set of principles that you can use to help you in searching for scholarships and money and to assist you in your life.

## II. LEARN ABOUT BIG SCHOLARSHIPS

A. [https://www.tnstate.edu/financial\\_aid/scholarships.aspx](https://www.tnstate.edu/financial_aid/scholarships.aspx)

### TSU Foundation Scholarships

A student will volunteer and log into the scholarship website, and we will discuss how to make your **General Application** stand out and how to determine which scholarships are open (has a small I near the deadline).

#### How to Make Your TSU University Foundation Application Stand Out

- ✓ Scholarship funding is limited, so you want your scholarship application to stand out and highlight what makes you unique and different.
- ✓ Often students just list brief information in what they do. This will severely put you at a disadvantage to those students who go into more detail.
- ✓ Think of what you are doing now and what you did in high school and make a list. You will remember things as you go along, and you can add these to your application.
- ✓ Identify positions (volunteer, president, co-founder, vice-president, founder, etc.)
- ✓ Identify organizations, including briefly what the organization does or is
- ✓ Identify responsibilities or activities you did for that organization and go into brief but “telling” detail
- ✓ If you held responsibilities that called upon leadership skills, highlight them.
- ✓ You want to make sure your grammar and punctuation are consistent and correct.
- ✓ You can save and go back to your application, as necessary.
- ✓ Once you submit your application, you can then start applying to separate scholarships for which you are qualified. Some of these require answering questions to make sure you are qualified for that particular scholarship or writing a brief essay.

**How the TSU Writing Center Can Help You: Make several appointments in the TSU Writing Center to go over your general application to make it as strong as you can, and make appointments to go over essays you are writing for individual scholarships.**

B. <https://www.regions.com/about-regions/inclusion-belonging-impact/supporting-communities/essay-contest-scholarship>

**\$8,000 Regions Riding Forward Scholarship, D: Sept 30, 2025; Dec 31, 2025,**

For the opportunity to win an \$8,000 scholarship, submit a video or written essay about an individual you know personally (who lives in your community) who has inspired you and helped you build the confidence you need to achieve your goals.”

More criteria can be found at the link above, including the requirement of a GPA of 2.0 or above (and if no GPA is provided by the school, be in “good standing”) and being a legal US resident of one of the eligible states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Review Bruce Garner’s video as an example of a winning video submission.

C. <https://tmcf.org/scholarships/open-scholarships/>

**Thurgood Marshall College Funds Open Scholarships, various deadlines**

I recommend checking back every two to three weeks.

D. <https://www.murrellscholarshipfund.com/>

**Robert N. Murrell Oratorical Scholarship Contest, D: Oct 3, 2025**

**First place: \$700, Second place: \$500, Third place: \$300**

**Scholarships awarded for two categories: Freshman and Upperclassmen (30 or more completed hours)**

Homecoming Theme: “Forever True, Forever TSU”

Application and abstract due by October 3, 2025. Abstract must not exceed 250 words. Presentations no more than 3 minutes on the Homecoming Theme.

### **Other Big Scholarship Opportunities:**

<https://www.scarlettfoundation.org/students/>

**\$2,500-\$30,000 Scarlett Family Foundation Scholarships, opens Sept 15, 2025: D: Dec 15, 2025**

<https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/ancestry/>

**\$2,500 Ancestry’s HistoryMakers Scholarship, D: Oct 23, 2025**

<https://scholarshipamerica.org/scholarship/chick-fil-a-community-scholars/>

**\$25,000 Chick-fil-A Community Scholars, D: Oct 28, 2025**

<https://scholarshipamerica.org/students/browse-scholarships/>

Browse other scholarships administered by **Scholarship America**

### **III. LEARN HOW TO USE SCHOLARSHIP DATABASES**

#### **What's Your Major?**

Asking students from the audience to come up and ask them, "What's Your Major?"

Use the following databases to help you find scholarships that match your major.

<https://bold.org/scholarships/>

<https://jlvcollegecounseling.com/scholarships/>

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>

**Cut and paste what students find here:**

[Edward Dorsey, Jr. Memorial Scholarship | Bold.org](#)

[Neal Hartl Memorial Sales/Marketing Scholarship | Bold.org](#)

[Education Scholarships | JLV College Counseling](#)

<https://nurse.org/scholarships/>

<https://bold.org/scholarships/pereira-art-and-technology-scholarship/>

[Top 150 Business Scholarships to Apply for in August 2025 | Bold.org](#)

[Project Yellow Light/Hunter Garner Scholarship - Unigo.com](#)

**\$12,000; D: Aug 31, 2025**

#### **Other Scholarships You can Apply For:**

A. <https://dosomething.org/take-action>

Ages 13-25. \$500-\$1,000. Some volunteer actions at DoSomething.Org carry possible scholarship money.

B. <https://bold.org/scholarships/sloane-stephens/>

**\$2,500 Sloane Stephens Doc & Glo Scholarship, D: Sept 1, 2025 (six to be awarded)**

2.5 GPA or higher, open to high school seniors, undergraduates, and graduate students

C. <https://hbcuconnect.com/scholarship/>

**\$1,000 HBCUConnect Scholarship, D: Sept 1, 2025**

D. <https://www.realtyhop.com/resources/scholarship>

**\$1,000 RealtyHop Scholarship, D: Aug 31, 2025**

E. <https://www.afsascholarship.org/secondchance/>

**\$1,000 AFSA 2<sup>nd</sup> chance Scholarship, D: Aug 31, 2025 (five scholarships given)**

F. <https://www.collegeispower.com/scholarship.cfm>

**\$1,000 C.I.P. Scholarship, D: Aug 31, 2025**

G. <https://moolahspot.com/scholarship/>

**\$1,000 MoolahSpot Scholarship, D: Aug 31, 2025**

H. <https://www.return2college.com/awardprogram.cfm>

**\$1,000 Three Sentence Scholarship (Return2College Scholarship), D: Sept 30, 2025**

I. <https://www.digitalresponsibility.org/dont-text-and-drive-scholarship>

**\$1,000 Don't Text and Drive Scholarship, D: Sept 30, 2025 (140 characters or less)**

More **Digital Responsibility scholarships:** <https://www.digitalresponsibility.org/scholarships>

J. <https://bold.org/scholarships/ronranglee-special-needs-teacher-literary-scholarship/>

**\$2,000 RonranGlee Special Needs Teacher Literary Scholarship (five given), D: Nov 19, 2025.** High school seniors, undergraduates, or graduate students who are “pursuing the special education teacher profession may apply.”

#### **IV. WHAT THE AARC WRITING CENTER CAN DO FOR YOU**

At the TSU Writing Center, we can assist you in finding scholarships (Mr. Turner, Ms. Danley) and assist you with any writing project (Ms. Kavan, Dr. Carroll, Ms. Danley, Mr. Turner). We help students, from undergraduate to graduate, and also faculty, staff, and alumni.

##### **Writing Project**

List some events in your life that are funny or embarrassing (fact or fiction).—3 minutes

Choose one event from that list and do some brainstorming around it.

You could freewrite, list details and emotions, or use clustering (mindmapping).—5 minutes

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/make-me-laugh-scholarship>

You can further develop this for a **\$1,500 Make Me Laugh Scholarship, D: Aug 31, 2025**, by either an essay or a video.

### **Set up an appointment in the AARC Writing Center at TSU**

We ask a student who wishes to make an appointment to come forward.

The student signs into EAB.

Click on the button that says, “Make An Appointment.”

You can choose the writing consultant you wish and then select a day and time for the appointment

Or

Select the date and time of your appointment and the system will select a writing consultant for you.

## **V. SCHOLARS WRITING GROUP**

We have created a group called the Scholars Writing Group.

Anyone who is searching for scholarships or internships or who is applying for scholarships or internships is a **Scholar**.

To join the Scholars Writing Group, all a student will need to do is make an appointment in the TSU Writing Center to find scholarships compiled in a report (if that appointment is with Mr. Turner, it is called a Scholarship Tigers report) or to get assistance in reviewing a scholarship essay or application.

Periodically, we will be creating material available through the Virtual Writing Center to assist in making your scholarship searches more fruitful or making your writing stronger.

You may receive email from us alerting you to scholarships or to seminars that will assist in your search for a debt free education.

If you ever wish to leave the Scholars Writing Group, just let us know.