

TEN SECRET SCHOLARSHIP STRATEGIES

EVERY STUDENT NEEDS TO KNOW TO GET A
COLLEGE EDUCATION WITHOUT GOING BROKE

eBook



By:

Dr. Christie Murray

Your Trusted Scholarship Expert



Hey
Scholars!



Hello scholars and parents! Thank you for your interest in this eBook! I am super excited to help you along your scholarship journey and more.

My name is Dr. Christie Murray and I want to share this eBook to introduce you to some of the proven scholarship secrets and strategies that worked for me, my family, and clients. These strategies can work for you too!

My published college planning and funding books, workbook templates, and other resources have helped thousands of scholars get accepted into college, find scholarships, and graduate debt-free!

To get the most out of this eBook, I want to challenge you to take these strategies serious and be willing to work hard for the scholarship success you desire.

Note: Terms, conditions, eligibility, and scholarship amounts are subject to each respective scholarship provider.

See you on the next page!

- Christie

Your Trusted College Admissions and Funding Expert





Getting Started

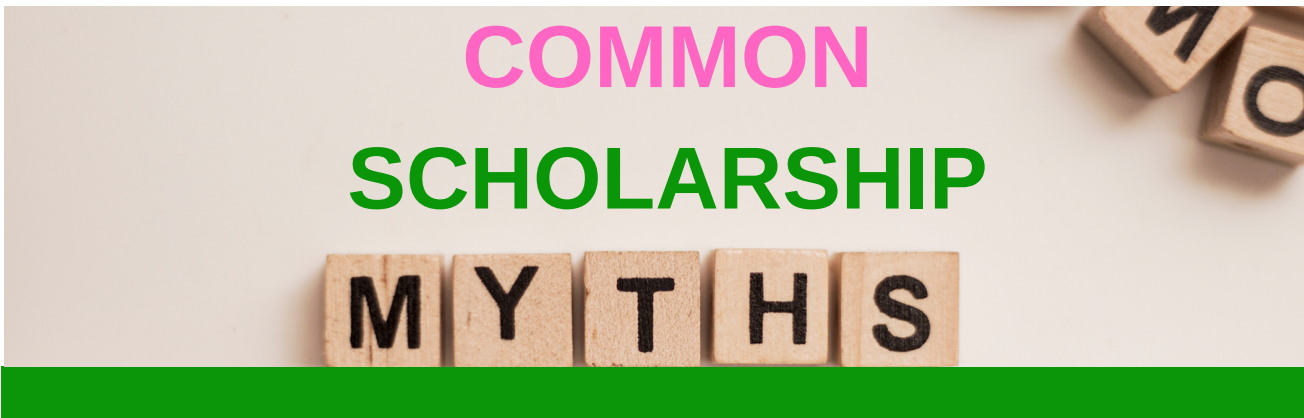
Before you dive into this eBook, I want to chat with you about planning for your future. What are your career and/or college plans? How will you fund your career/educational pursuits? It's no secret the cost of an education can be high.

Planning for your future and how you may fund your career or education should not be an afterthought!

Whether you are considering a career change, military service, vocation/trade school, community college, four-year college, or graduate school, there are scholarships (free money or gift aid) available to help.

Don't let the high cost of education halt your education and career goals. In 2020, the average borrower owed \$38K in student loans. This does not have to be your reality!

Leverage the scholarship strategies in this eBook to help you get scholarships for your education!



COMMON SCHOLARSHIP

MYTHS

Before you start searching and applying for scholarships, I want to **dispel two common scholarship myths** that might discourage you from applying.

1

Myth: You must have a high grade point average or high test scores to get awarded scholarships.

Truth: There are so many different types of scholarships out there. Please do not think that only scholars with extremely high academic performance can get a scholarship. I have helped so many students with varying academic performance get awarded scholarships based on different attributes that makes them unique.

2

Myth: Scholarships are only available for high school students.

Truth: There are scholarships out there for all kinds of learners and continuing college students. I have helped scholars find scholarships for vocational/trade schools, community colleges, four-year colleges, and graduate schools. Whatever learning goals you have there are scholarships for you. You just have to find them! The strategies in this eBook will work for you!

TEN SCHOLARSHIP STRATEGIES

According to Forbes, about \$100 million in scholarship funds went unclaimed in 2021. How is this possible when there are so many scholars in financial need?

This presents a unique opportunity for you to keep looking for scholarships because there is ***MONEY OUT THERE!*** So, ***unless you are allergic to free money***, get to work applying for scholarships until you have your ***education funded!***

Let's put my ten successful scholarship secrets to work for you! These ***scholarship strategies are excerpts from my college planning and funding books and workbooks***. If you find the strategies in this eBook helpful, consider purchasing my books and workbooks for even more successful insights!



STRATEGY I

Don't Rely Just on College or University Merit-based/Academic-Based Scholarships

Regardless of how high your grade point average (GPA) or test scores are, do not rely just on college or university merit-based or academic-based scholarships **to fully fund your education**. Making the assumption that a college or university will offer enough scholarship funding may lead to disappointment and panic.



Some colleges and universities offer great scholarship opportunities. Make sure you **still take the SAT and/or ACT test for merit-based scholarships** even if a college makes these tests "optional" for admissions.

While some scholars may receive full scholarships, this may not be the case for others. Some students with strong GPAs and test scores are disappointed because they did not receive **enough** college scholarships and **they failed to apply for external scholarships**. Don't make this mistake!

Apply for ALL types of scholarships from various sources until you get your funding needs met.

STRATEGY 2

Put In the Work!

Scholarships do not apply for themselves. You must be willing to put in the work and effort to make it happen.

SACRIFICE *TIME NOW* OR SACRIFICE *MONEY LATER!*



Each year, scholarship funding goes unclaimed because students do not rigorously seek out or apply for scholarships. ***You are 100% guaranteed to miss out on scholarships that you never applied for.***

Scholarships are great opportunities to ***finance your education without paying out of pocket*** or incurring student loan debt. To achieve this you MUST put in the work! ***No one else can do it better than you can because you know your unique situation.***

My goal is to help students and families ***increase their odds of successfully getting awarded scholarships***, money they do not have to pay back!

STRATEGY 3

Develop and Execute Your Scholarship Plan

There is no magic trick to applying for and getting awarded scholarships. The best way to position yourself is to develop and execute a **simple** but **effective scholarship plan**.

So many students try to “wing it” instead of putting together a deliberate and intentional plan. ***Having a scholarship plan significantly improves your level of success.***



certain characteristics in common:

1. They are organized and prepared.
2. They outline their tasks and deadlines.
3. They use their time wisely.
4. Their documents are accessible (transcripts, acceptance/enrollment letters, test scores).
5. They prioritize their efforts and execute.

You will find that you will be effective and efficient and you will spend less time stressing and spinning your wheels.

You do not have to start from scratch, use the College Funding/Scholarship Plan in my book and workbook, ***"College Funding Strategies I Wish Someone Had Told Me."***

STRATEGY 4

Search for Scholarships Everywhere!



I hear scholars and parents frequently say that they cannot “FIND” scholarships. Yet, when I ask, “where have you looked?,” I get a blank stare.

The problem is that no one wants to commit the time and effort to ***search for scholarships in creative ways***. Google can be a great scholarship search resource! There are different types of scholarships from various sources. ***Do not limit the type of scholarship sources you search for.***

Here are some common scholarship sources:

- Colleges and universities
- Military ROTC
- Businesses/corporations
- Professional associations (related to your major)
- Religious organizations
- Non-profit organizations
- Fraternities and sororities
- Civic or social organizations
- College alumni associations
- Employers



STRATEGY 4

Search for Scholarships Everywhere!

Use scholarship search sites to help you expediently find targeted scholarships. These sites have large databases with matching tools to help you find scholarships based on your background, achievements, field of study, athletic interests, skills, goals, extracurricular activities, community service, talents, hobbies, and other interests.

Many of these sites will require you to ***create an account and build a profile based on your background.***

Here is a list of some scholarship search sites to get you started (but there are many others, Google them):

- <https://accessscholarships.com>
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarships>
- www.cappex.com
- www.chegg.com
- www.dosomething.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.niche.com
- <https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>
- www.studentscholarshipsearch.com
- www.scholarshipPoints.com
- www.scholarshippamerica.org
- www.scholly.com
- www.unigo.com



STRATEGY 5

Leverage What Makes You Unique

Leverage what makes you different. Your uniqueness can help you get scholarships! One of the most undervalued scholarship aspects is when ***scholars fail to sit down and really think about what makes them unique***. For example, did you know there are scholarships for vegetarians?



Start brainstorming and make a list of what makes you different. As you brainstorm, leverage your strengths and perceived weaknesses and look for scholarships in those areas. Also, ask others who know you well what makes you unique.

By specifying your uniqueness, you can:

- ▶ Target scholarships that match your uniqueness.
- ▶ Write more compelling essays & personal statements.
- ▶ Differentiate yourself from other scholarship applicants.

STRATEGY 5

Leverage What Makes You Unique



Here are examples of areas of uniqueness:

- Academic performance
- Financial need
- Low income
- Deceased parent
- Underrepresented in certain majors
- Career or major
- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- First generation student
- International
- Abilities
- Disabilities (physical or learning)
- Honors/Achievements
- Memberships
- Athletics/Sports
- Extracurricular clubs/activities
- Professional affiliations and memberships
- Talents, skills, and abilities
- Interests
- Hobbies



STRATEGY 6

Apply Frequently for Scholarships

Don't think that there are only certain times of the year to apply for scholarships. There are scholarships that can be applied for all year long! You just have to look for them!

Unless you have all the funding you need to fund your educational pursuits, ***you should be applying for scholarships frequently.***



When scholars ask when they should stop applying for scholarships, I say ***apply for scholarships until you graduate or complete your specific program.***

Set aside time each week to apply for scholarships. Make a goal to apply for a certain number of scholarships each week until their funding is covered.

STRATEGY 7

Don't Overlook Local Scholarships

Your goal should be to apply for all types of scholarships. There are well-known scholarships and national scholarships that students are very familiar with. Therefore, these popular scholarships get a lot of applicants. That is why ***applying for local scholarships can be a difference maker.***

- ▶ ***Local scholarships are hidden gems because they are often overlooked and have small applicant pools.*** This means you have greater odds of getting awarded these types of scholarships when you apply and meet the eligibility requirements.
- ▶ Many local scholarship providers want to target students in their local communities, like you.
- ▶ Local scholarship providers in your community could be ***religious organizations, local government entities, non-profit organizations, businesses, civic organizations, social organizations***, etc.
- ▶ Surprisingly, very few students seek out local scholarships because they do not know they exist or how to find them.
- ▶ ***School counselors are a great scholarship source*** when looking for local opportunities. Many schools share local scholarships on their school website or by email to parents and students.

STRATEGY 8

Track Your Scholarship Progress



- ▶ As you research and apply for scholarships that are a good fit for you, keep a list of the scholarships you may be eligible for and track your progress.
- ▶ List the scholarships by the applications with the nearest due date to those with the furthest due date. This will help you manage your time better and prioritize how you will apply for scholarships.
- ▶ You should document key information on each scholarship including the website link, eligibility requirements, due date, scholarship award amounts, required documents, and more. Use a Scholarship Tracking Spreadsheet and update it as you add new scholarships, complete scholarship applications, and receive decisions on scholarships.
- ▶ You can create your own tracking template or save yourself a lot of time and energy by using the Scholarship Tracking Spreadsheet Template from my workbook, **[“College Funding Strategies I Wish Someone Had Told Me.”](#)**

STRATEGY 9

Embrace the Essays

Some scholarships require an essay as part of the scholarship application and others do not. While writing essays requires energy and effort, ***essays can be an important differentiator for scholarship selection or award***, especially when test scores may be optional or not required.

For some students, one of the most dreaded parts of completing scholarship applications is writing essays. Countless ***scholars miss out on great scholarship opportunities because they do not want to write essays.***



Scholarship requirements may have similar essay topics. You may be asked to write an essay on different topics such as leadership, community service, overcoming a challenge, community service, making a difference, innovation, why you choose your major, or a different topic.

SAVE all essays and repurpose the content so that you can reuse it as needed.

STRATEGY 9

Embrace the Essays



Here are some great essay writing tips:

Always **follow the essay instructions** and never go over the word count.

Make sure your essay has an **Introduction, Body, and Conclusion**. Have a minimum of three distinct points and expand on each point in it's own paragraph.

Be authentic and compelling in your writing and **tell your unique story**. No one else can tell your story.

Be sure to **share how you plan to make a difference** in your community, the world, or society.

Check your grammar and spelling. Then, get someone you trust to proofread your essay before submitting it. Never submit essays that have not been proofread.

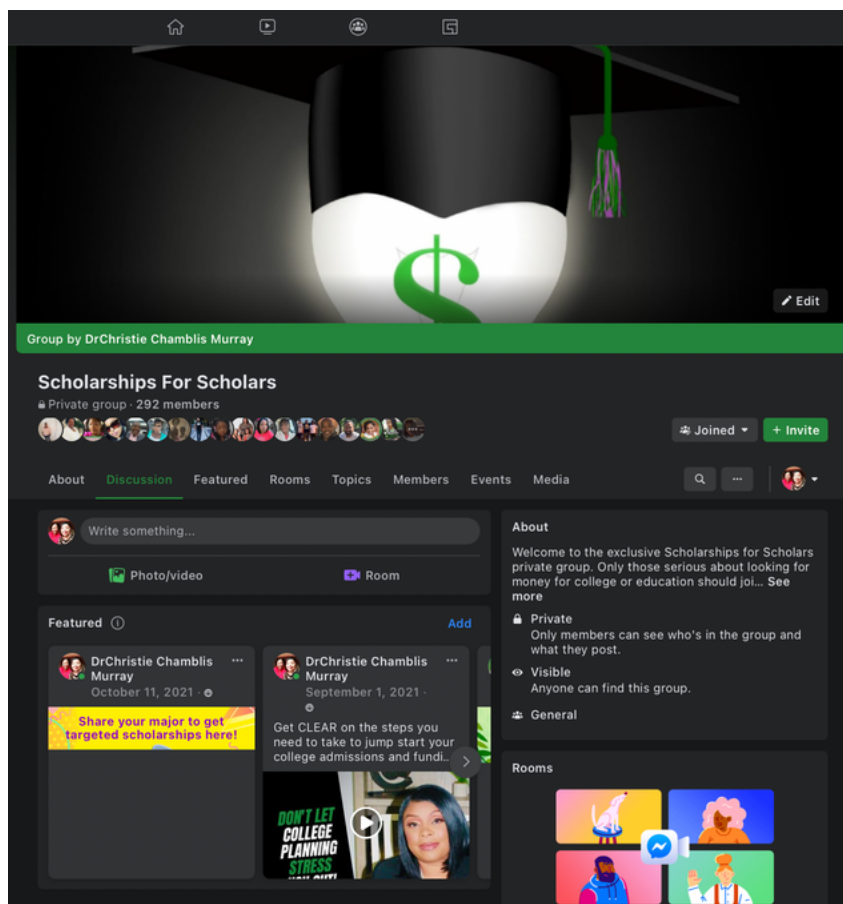
Check out my book, **"College Funding Strategies I Wish Someone Had Told Me"** for more valuable essay writing strategies.

STRATEGY 10

Join Online Scholarship Groups

Scholars who are serious about finding scholarships may need a support system. I would encourage you to join online scholarship groups to get additional scholarship information and resources.

Join my exclusive **Scholarships for Scholars** group on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. This is a great way to get your specific questions answered and get more personal access to me. I share information on scholarships, internships, and jobs, upcoming events in posts, videos, and live sessions.



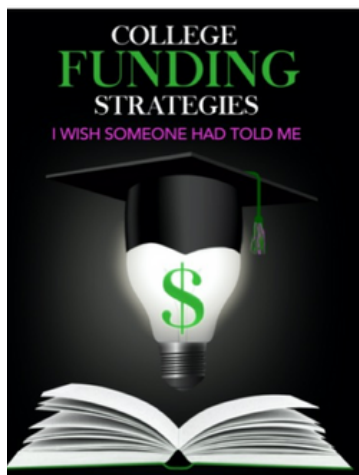


Ready for the ***NEXT LEVEL?***

Still have questions or need college funding, financial aid, or scholarship assistance?

Contact me, your trusted college admissions & funding expert for assistance.

[**Contact Me**](#)



- One-on-one consultations
- Speaking engagements (seminars or webinars)
- Book and workbook resources
- and more!

[**Order Books and Workbooks Here**](#)



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