DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE
Scholarship Success for UWSP Students
What We Will Cover

Getting Started
• Creating a Scholarships Resume
• Asking for Written References
• Writing a Great Scholarships Essay

Finding Scholarships

Applying for Scholarships

Scholarship Scams: Red Flags

Other Scholarship Tips
Getting Started

• Start Early!
• Assemble a list of references
  • List professors, mentors, coaches, etc.
  • Note how long you have known each of them
  • Confirm their contact information
• Create a calendar
  • Check with your college and academic program for scholarship deadlines
  • Different scholarships have different deadlines
  • Set aside time on a regular basis to review scholarships and timelines
Creating a Scholarships Resume

Take some time to answer these questions:

• What are your academic successes?
• Which student organizations are you involved in?
• Do you have any volunteer experience?
• What is your employment history?
• Do you play any sports?
• Do you work with any community organizations?
• Do you have any unique skills or life experiences?
• What are your future plans?
Creating a Scholarships Resume

After assembling this list, organize the information into a logical resume.

- Call attention to any awards won or leadership positions held
- Note how long have you participated in each activity (date range)
- Have a trusted mentor (professor, TLC Writing Lab Consultant, parent, etc.) proofread this document
Creating a Scholarships Resume

Benefits of Creating a Resume:

• One place “cheat sheet” to use when filling out scholarship applications
• Ready to use if a scholarship asks for one
• Easy to hand to a reference so they can be reminded of your successes
• Excellent start to creating a professional resume
Asking for Written References

Do not let this requirement discourage you from applying for a scholarship!

1. Ask your reference(s) if they are willing to write a letter. Ask at least 2 weeks prior to the due date.

2. Provide a copy of the scholarship criteria and your resume for them to read and refer to.

3. Write and send them a thank-you card afterwards!
Writing a Great Essay

DO

• Write small sections at a time
• Edit, edit, edit
• Use proofreading services
• Use strong grammar and word choice
• Spell out contractions (can't --> cannot)
• Answer the specific prompt
• Stick to word limit
• Say why you are applying
  • If possible, make personal connection

DO NOT

• Wait until the last minute or “wing it”
• Have your parents or friends write it for you
• Plagiarize
• Submit without checking everything over
• Say that you need money outright
• Repeat your resume
• Send a generic essay regardless of prompt
Finding Scholarships

• Check Message of the Day (MOD)
• Read your UWSP email
  • Pay attention to updates and newsletters from professors, academic program/major, and college
• Talk to your professors about scholarship opportunities
  • Some scholarships need a professor nomination
  • Make a good impression! (attend class, participate in class, do your best work, use their office hours, etc.)
• Review UWSP’s Scholarships webpage
  • www.uwsp.edu/finaid/Pages/scholarships
Finding Scholarships

• Identify and use different combinations of your unique qualities to find niche/specific scholarships
• Review information in the library’s reference section
• Check in your home community for regional scholarships
  • civic organizations, churches, nonprofits, etc.
• Ask employers if they have scholarships
  • Also check with parents’/guardians’ employers
• Scholarship search engines can also be helpful:
  • Fastweb.com, unigo.com, collegeboard.org
Applying for Scholarships

• Create a running text document of all questions and essay answers to use for other scholarship applications
  • Many applications repeat questions
  • If possible, type up answer in a separate document and use spellcheck before submitting
• Keep your reference list and resume handy to help you answer application questions
• Double check all information and answers before submitting
• Give yourself enough time to complete applications
  • Pay attention to deadlines
Scholarship Scams: Red Flags

- Fees
- Guarantees
- Limited Time Offer
  - Pressure tactics
- Personal Information Requests
  - Banking information, social security numbers, etc.
- Unsolicited Scholarship Offers
  - Scholarships are awarded through an application
- Missing Sponsor Information
  - Don’t Call Us, We’ll Call You

If something seems too good to be true, please reach out to Financial Aid and Veteran Services to confirm legitimacy!
Other Scholarship Tips

• Fill out the FAFSA even if you think you won’t qualify for aid
  – Many students miss out on grant aid (gift aid) every year
  – Some scholarships require FAFSA completion
• Apply to every scholarship you may be eligible for
• Small scholarships add up!
• Check out your online presence
• Get involved in a variety of activities
• Be strategic with your scholarships
  – Ask a financial aid advisor if it makes sense, if allowed, to defer a scholarship
FAFSA
Open Academic Years
2021-2022
2022-2023
Financial Aid and Veteran Services
We are here to help!

Student Services Center, Room 103
715-346-4771 or finaid@uwsp.edu
www.uwsp.edu/finaid/