

Scholarship Success for UWSP Students

DISCOVER
YOUR PURPOSE



University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT • MARSHFIELD • WAUSAU

Covered in this Presentation



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 requires 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



- Identity 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 both 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 for which you may be eligible
- 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 counselor if it makes sense, if allowed, to defer a scholarship

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/