Listed below are a few of the private scholarships that are available to eligible students who are entering college. There are many other private scholarships for college students, and you can find out more about them by consulting one of the many free scholarships search sites (also listed below). To learn about U-M scholarships for entering undergraduates, see the Office of Financial Aid website (www.finaid.umich.edu/ScholarshipsandGrants).

November is National Scholarship Month, sponsored by the National Scholarship Providers Association (NSPA) to coincide with the kick-off of the scholarship application season. If you have not already done so, November is a great time to begin searching and applying for private scholarships.

### Private Scholarships for Eligible Entering Students

#### Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Scholarships
www.coca-colascholars.org
- Community and 4-year colleges
- $10,000-$20,000
- Apply online
- Over 250 awarded
- Based on academic merit, leadership, and talent
- Application materials available in August
- Deadline in October

#### Gates Millennium Scholarships
www.gmsp.org
- Minority students
- Tuition/fees and room/board for at least 1,000 high school students per year
- Nomination materials available each fall
- Deadline in January

#### Hispanic College Fund Scholarships
www.hispanicfund.org
- Variety of scholarship programs
- Award amount varies
- Most disciplines accepted
- Applications available in November
- Deadline in March

#### Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship
www.JackieRobinson.org
- Minority students
- Up to $7,500 per year
- Renewable
- Based on academic achievement, leadership, community service, and financial need
- All fields
- Applications available in October
- Deadline in March

#### Buick Achievers Scholarship Program
www.buickachievers.com
- Select majors only (see complete list online)
- 1,000 awards of $2,000 per year (renewable)
- 100 awards of up to $25,000 per year (renewable)
- Application available in February, deadline March 31

#### Burger King Scholars Program
www.haveityourwayfoundation.org
- Have to be enrolled full-time
- Two-year, four-year and vocational/technical schools
- Most scholarships are non-renewable awards of up to $1,000
- Application available mid-November, deadline in January

#### Ron Brown Scholar Program
www.RonBrown.org
- $10,000 per year for 10+ students
- Renewable
- Based on academic merit, leadership, and community service
- All fields
- Application available in September
- Deadline in November for scholarship and program; deadline in January for program only

#### KFC Colonel's Scholars
www.kfcscholars.org
- Have to attend an in-state public institution
- Up to $5,000 per year (renewable)
- Based on entrepreneurial drive, strong perseverance and financial need
- Application available December 1, deadline in February

### Free Scholarship Search Services

- Black College Dollars (Sallie Mae Fund)  
  www.thesthesialemefund.org/sfui/view/scholarship_directory/index.html
- College Board's Scholarship Search  
  http://apps.collegeboard.org/cbsearch/sds/welcome.jsp
- College NET MACH 25  
  www.collegenet.com/mach25/app
- College Toolkit  
  www.collegetoolkit.com/
- FastWEB  
  www.fastweb.com
- FinAid Scholarships  
  www.finaid.org/scholarships/
- FinAid Scholarship Links for Specific Courses of Study  
  www.finaid.org/otheraid/majors.phtml
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Scholarship Resource List  
  www.hacu.net/hacu/Scholarship_Resource_List_EN.asp?SnID=1331324591
- Peterson's Scholarship Search  
- Sallie Mae  
  www.go.salliemae.com/scholarship
- Scholarship America  
  www.scholarshipamerica.org/students
- Scholarships.com  
  www.scholarships.com
- Zinch  
  www.zinch.com
how to start?

- **Get organized.** Understand what the provider is looking for, brainstorm to generate some good ideas and then create an outline to help you organize your essay.

- **Demonstrate originality and creativity.** Find a hook that will interest the reader right away to catch the attention of the scholarship judge. Possible topics include your personal achievements, plans for the future, someone who influenced you, or current events. If you choose to address a controversial topic, do so with sensitivity.

- **Show, don't tell.** For example, if you're describing an activity you participated in, don't describe it in general terms. Be specific! What duties did you perform? What effect did it have on your life or the lives of others?

- **Develop a theme that fits the scholarship.** What sort of student is the sponsor looking for? Include elements in your essay that complement the sponsor's expectations (without pretending to be someone you aren't).

- **Turn in a professional-looking essay.** Write a second draft to catch mistakes and better organize your thoughts. Check spelling and grammar. Finally, share your essay with someone else for another proofread.

what do judges look for?

- **Do you qualify?** Sounds simple, but students every year waste time by applying for awards they aren't eligible to win.

- **Is your application presented well?** Type your essay and other information, if you have the option. Have someone else check for bad grammar and spelling errors.

- **Did you include required documents?** Frequently forgotten items include transcripts, references and letters of recommendation. Don't include extra information that the sponsor doesn't need. To avoid confusion if pages are separated, write your first and last name on each page.

- **Did you answer all of the questions?** Double-check that you haven't forgotten any required information.

- **Did you keep a back-up copy?** Save a copy of your application in case the sponsor asks you to re send it.

where to look?

- **Go online.** To find private scholarships and scholarship search services, see www.finaid.umich.edu/ ScholarshipsandGrants

- **Search your community.** Who might offer scholarships?
  - Community organizations (Rotary Club, Lion's Club, local Chamber of Commerce, library, etc.)
  - Cultural organizations that provide awards based on ethnic background or heritage
  - Your employer or your parents' employers
  - Places of worship

- **Talk to faculty and your academic advisor.** Professors and academic advisors may know about grants, private scholarships and corporate sponsorships.

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**how to keep your scholarship**

Some scholarships may be renewable. However, renewable awards might have ongoing requirements, including:

- **Submission of renewal application.** Scholarships may require a new application each academic year.

- **Grade Point Average.** You may need to maintain a minimum GPA to remain eligible.

- **Satisfactory academic progress.** You may be required to fulfill academic requirements, such as completing a certain number of credits or courses.

- **Designated field of study.** Will you lose the award if you change majors?

- **Full-time enrollment status.** Scholarships frequently require you to be a full-time student.

*If there is any question whether your scholarship is renewable, talk to your school or scholarship sponsor as soon as you've won the scholarship.*

*Remember that sponsors offer scholarships throughout the year. Check for new awards!*

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**Office of Financial Aid**
**University of Michigan**
(734) 763-6600
www.finaid.umich.edu