

CSIEME Scholarship Sessions by Eric Paul Noonan

- Keep a file with...
 - Scholarship Name
 - By Year
 - That You Applied for
 - That You Received and how much
 - Letters others wrote for you—you need new ones every year (often with just a date change); letters need to be TAILORED to YOU and the AWARD
 - Personal Statements you wrote—you can use the same letters every year because Scholarship Committees change every year AND because committee members read SO MANY applications they cannot remember who wrote what, when (usually)
 - The Thank You letter you wrote expressing appreciation for the opportunity/award

Recommendation Letters

- Two minimum from faculty members, 75% require a third from a prominent member of the community (minister, coach, girl scout leaders) or an employer (always get an extra one, in case one is not so good)
- Letters should be tailored to YOU, the specific scholarship mentioned by name, and specific to the funding criteria
- Must be less than a year old

Personal Statements 500-2000 Words Each

You can use the SAME letters every year even for the same awards

Three things almost always asked of applicants

What hardships have you overcome to get where you are now?

- Lay it on, whatever you have been through, be descriptive, you cannot go overboard with this
- Your story (e.g., marine corps combat experiences, experiences of growing up mixed race during segregation, etc.)

What is your financial need and what will you do if you do not receive the scholarship, how else will you fund it?

- What is your financial need
- Through loans, always, DO NOT MENTION another scholarship
- Take a second job
- Pell grant, student financial aid
- DO NOT say if you are not funded that you will not go to school

Why have you chosen this profession, what is your passion for it?

- Lay it on (e.g., the instant gratification of being in hospitality, started teaching and fell in love with it/it changed my life/this drove my change in study focus, etc.) be really passionate
- Be descriptive!
- Should come from the heart!

Fourth thing sometimes asked of applicants (25% of applications will ask this kind of question)

Abstract question usually

What changes in this discipline/industry do you foresee?

- Example, travel industry, something is disappearing (travel agents because of the Internet, etc.), something is new (opportunities for pursuing travel in other ways, through other avenues, etc.)

Foundations to Consider

- Start with Professional Organizations—apply through these first, usually these are need based
- Next look for Discipline-Specifics—apply for these next
- Finally look at Identity-Bases—apply for these next
- James Beard Foundation, awards of up to \$20K a year

Types

- Pell Grants \$6000/year for six years; multiple scholarships based on GPA after the first semester in college (harder to get funded out of high school), with 3.5 GPA and above; junior year of high school and earlier are the grades most colleges/universities look at in considering aid awards
- FAFSA, recently updated for 2019-2020 academic year
- Organizational (Boy Scouts, Red Cross)
- Experience-based (Cancer survivor, Impacted by 9/11)
- For a specific purpose/place (e.g., to study in D.C., for a specific Country, etc.)
- Corporate (Discover card, U.S. Bank, Your Employer)
- Discipline-specific (e.g., STEM, teaching, hotel/restaurant, etc.)
- Identity-based (Race, Gender, Nationality, etc.)
- Non-traditional students

Categories

- U.S only (U.S. citizen)
- International only
- Specific part of the country/world
- Women—more for women, than for men
- Race/ethnicity-based, sometimes really specific
- Single mother
- Women of color
- Religious affiliation
- Age (over 40, 50, etc.)
- LGBTQ+

General Points to Consider

- Some are need-based and some are academically-based
- If applying for an academic scholarship, you need to have at least one academic or professional leadership position
- 3.0 minimum, 3.5 is better for all scholarships; A's = 100% funding, B's = 80% funding, C's = 50% funding
- Under \$30K for need based
- Need based scholarships, if you are under 26 and if you are not independent (single mother, homeless), your parents must qualify
- More resources are available for undergraduates than graduates, but remember that our scholarship guru gets \$25-90K a year as a graduate student!
- FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS...staples or paperclips, color of open, completely fill it out, do not use jargon/language that a lay person would not understand
- You will need a CV or résumé—chronologically or by job, less is more, organize it around the focus of the scholarship/share discipline-specific information in it that is related to the scholarship for which you are applying
- Volunteer work helps your application
- Some applications are year-round, most are from February-May for the following academic year
- It's okay if you are previously funded by that foundation, apply again and again; some are explicitly renewable
- 90% need unofficial transcripts, 10% need official
- You need a thank you letter for EVERY scholarship for which you apply/receive, you can use the same ones every year!
- Apply for 30, get about 15-20
- You do not pay taxes on funds that come to the university and are then given to you
- Filling out your taxes, you can get money back from the government (tax benefits for education) three times if you make less than \$30K (a little more if you file taxes as married)—1) HOPE credits \$2500, 2) American Opportunity credits \$2500, 3) Lifetime Learning credits (20% of costs up to \$1000), use them in order
- *Adult students' guide for survival and success* (sixth edition)
- CONFERENCE TRAVEL: For Teaching and Learning, you must apply for GPSA first, then show evidence that you did In your application for the Teaching and Learning
- CONFERENCE/RESEARCH TRAVEL: For GPSA, you MUST show a minimum of comparisons, three minimum, for each thing for which you are requesting money: Hotel/Air B&B, Airfare, Taxi/Lyft/Über

- CONFERENCE/RESEARCH TRAVEL: For GPSA, apply EARLY even if you do not know if you are accepted to present, just indicate that you applied to present
- GENERAL DISCOUNTED TRAVEL: Travel agent sites (not online comparison sites), certain times of year (90 days out or within a week), fly standby (1/2 or 1/4 price), senior discounts, military, AAA, for hotels: call when the night auditor/night shift is there and start gabbing with them about their work, and get a discount/upgrade, be friendly/nice!
- How to avoid being scammed, avoid search engine that direct you to general sites, instead look for specific program award sites