



UCLA Scholarship Resource Center STRATEGIES

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“Who Actually Wins Scholarships, Anyway?”

By Mac Harris, SRC Staff



At the UCLA Scholarship Resource Center we commonly field this question, and it’s easy to see why. In most cases it takes a real commitment of time and effort in order to win scholarships, and students understandably want to know whether that will actually pay off.

Because there are so many types of scholarships, there is no single profile of a scholarship winner. And because of that diversity, it’s also difficult to provide absolute statistics or predictions. But one thing is clear: you don’t win scholarships by not applying.

The students who put in a regular effort and work with us routinely on multiple scholarship applications, and use our scholarship books, folders, handouts, and online resources to find those opportunities, have an outstanding record of success. From my personal experience, though I have not kept data on it (because I’m a literature specialist after all!), I can confidently assert that I have never worked with a student on at least five different scholarship applications who did not win at least one of them. I consider that to be the most important statistic: of the students who really invest their time and effort in the scholarship process (and work with us on it), the success rate is exceedingly high.

The key to the scholarship process, besides putting together the best possible presentation of yourself in the scholarship essay and other application materials, is to apply for as many scholarships as possible where you meet the eligibility criteria. Aiming at 15-20 applications in a year is a great goal, though even five to ten gives you an excellent chance. While one scholarship committee might pass on your application despite its excellence, for any number of reasons, if you have five, ten, 15, or 20 different scholarship committees reviewing your application, you have an exponentially better chance of winning.

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Twenty applications sounds like a lot, but scholarship essays are often very similar (not to mention your letters of recommendation, transcripts, resumes, etc.), so your twentieth scholarship application happens much more easily and quickly than your first or second. Furthermore, applying for scholarships also allows you to develop materials and habits that will prove invaluable to you later in your applications to internships, graduate schools, and jobs.

In sum, the percentage of students who actually benefit from making a serious commitment to the scholarship process is 100%.

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Have you won a scholarship with the help of the SRC?

Let us know!

src@college.ucla.edu

Grab Your Passport: Nat'l and Int'l Merit Scholarships

By SRC Staff

Most National Merit Scholarships require a UCLA nomination before applying. The dates listed below are internal UCLA campus deadlines (rather than foundation deadlines). For information about nominations, contact the UCLA Scholarship Resource Center.

Prestigious International Scholarships:

The Marshall Scholarship finances a degree at a university in the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland). Eligible students must be U.S. citizens with a 3.7 GPA or higher and be prepared to graduate within two years. The program encourages recipients to become ambassadors to the U.K. The award varies by circumstances, but students on average receive about \$47,000 worth of funding to offset the cost of living, residence, tuition fees, and fares to and from the U.S.
UCLA Deadline: June 30

The Rhodes Scholarship is open to students in any field of study. The scholarship selects students with outstanding scholarly achievements, a commitment to the common good, and who demonstrate potential for leadership. The award includes all college and university fees at Oxford University, a stipend for living expenses, and transportation to and from England. Eligible students must be undergraduate students or have completed a bachelor's degree with a GPA of 3.7 or higher. Students with an interest in graduate study at Oxford University are encouraged to apply. **UCLA Deadline: June 30**

The Churchill Scholarship provides funding to students for a year of master's study in science, engineering, and mathematics at the University of Cambridge. The award covers university and college fees, travel, and a living allowance. Applicants must be in their final year of a bachelor's degree, a U.S. citizen, between ages 19-26, and hold a GPA of 3.8 or higher. Students must show exceptional academic achievement and demonstrate a capacity to advance knowledge in their field.
UCLA Deadline: October 1

Additional Scholarships to Consider:

George W. Mitchell Scholarship for one year of study at a university in Ireland; **UCLA deadline: June 30.**



Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for students with a Federal Pell Grant to pursue a study abroad program; due early September.

Fulbright U.S. Student Program for research projects and cultural exchange outside the U.S.; due early September.

Luce Scholars Program for study in one of 15 Asian countries and regions in East and Southeast Asia, including India and Nepal; due early September.

Schwarzman Scholars Program for study of public policy, international relations, economics, or business in Beijing, China; due early September.

Critical Language Scholarship for overseas critical language instruction in one of 13 designated languages; due early October.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program for seniors pursuing graduate work in science and engineering; due early October.

Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship for students pursuing a career in public policy or related fields; due early October.

Soros Fellowship for New Americans for immigrants or children of immigrants pursuing graduate work in the U.S.; due early October.

Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Awards for pre-PhD funding to diverse individuals committed to teaching and a research career; due early November.



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And find our updates on Twitter: [@uclasrc](https://twitter.com/uclasrc)



Creative Arts Contests: Imagine Yourself a Winner

By Helga Zambrano, SRC Staff

As an alternative to traditional scholarships, have you considered trying your hand at one of the many available creative arts contests? This type of scholarship rarely requires a minimum grade point average or letters of recommendation. Plus, it is fairly easy to manage when you compare it to comprehensive scholarships sponsored by organizations. In addition to winning a cash prize, winners may also have their pieces published or released to a larger public audience.

Here are some options to consider:

- **Essay Contests:** Similar to a humanities academic paper, an essay contest announces a general prompt for which applicants write an original essay that includes a strong argument, supporting evidence, an introduction and conclusion—all of which should be structured in a logical manner and written within a specific word limit. Part of the challenge is also for the essay writer to narrow down the scope of the prompt. One example would be the **AES Engineering Service Company Essay Contest** (due October 6, 2017) for \$500. This contest invites college students to write an essay addressing the meaning of life, success, relationships, and accomplishments. An essay writer could discuss the impact of community building, the value of education, or challenging limitations to achieving financial security. The purpose of an essay contest is to write a piece that is compelling, convincing, and creative.
- **A Literary Piece – A Short Story, a Poem, a Novellette, Novels, or a Script:** Another popular type of writing contest falls within the literary landscape. These opportunities invite new, amateur, or seasoned writers to submit a piece within genres such as fantasy, romance, science fiction, detective, mystery, poetry, drama, and film. For example, the **Helen McCloy Mystery Writers of America Scholarship** for \$500 seeks to nurture talent in mystery writing in fiction, nonfiction, playwriting, and screenwriting. Be sure to check out *Poets & Writers Magazine*'s extensive database of contests, grants, and awards at <http://www.pw.org/grants>.

- **A Musical Piece – Composition, Song, or Conducting:** These contests recognize student songwriters, conductors, or composers working in world musical genres including alternative, classical, jazz, R&B, Latin, etc. Generally, you are asked to submit a score, the instrumental arrangement, song lyrics, and perhaps a sound recording. The **BMI Foundation**, for example, works to administer several scholarships in this area such as the **Future Jazz Master Scholarship**, **Student Composer Awards** (classical), **John Lennon Scholarship** (all genres), **Nashville Songwriting Scholarship** (country music), **Peer-music Latin Scholarship**, the **Woodie Guthrie Fellowship** (for researchers in music), and the **Lionel Newman Conducting Scholarship**.



- **A Visual Piece – Film, Documentaries, Television:** Another opportunity involves submitting your television or cinematographic piece for scholarships. The **Women in Film Organization**, for example, offers a diverse pool of scholarships for female students in the Los Angeles area studying cinematography, film, television, communications, and/or new media. **UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television** also provides an extensive list of awards in this field of study. For more information, go to: <http://www.tft.ucla.edu/scholarships-2/>.

☞ Plan a visit to the *Scholarship Resource Center* to explore the bulletin boards and binders dedicated to these fields of study and creative endeavors. Our staff would be happy to assist you in those artistic projects!

In 2016, students raised over **60 million dollars** through crowdfunding.

Want a piece of that action? Try Indiegogo.com or GoFundMe.com to raise some college cash.

➔ Check out the “**GoFundMe for College**” guidebook for more info:

<https://www.scribd.com/document/339324669/GoFundMe-for-College>

Personal Essay Dos and Don'ts

Scholarship Essay Writing Tips from a Pro

By Hannah Nahm, SRC Staff

◆ **Be personal:** The key difference between your essay and all the other competing essays is YOU. Your essay is unique and meaningful because it is about you, and no other essay can duplicate that. Let the uniqueness of your essay shine through by focusing on examples from your life experiences.

✍ Example: Instead of writing about the general problem of gang violence in many urban cities, write about your own experience growing up in an area affected by gang violence and your intention to pursue social work as a result, as a means of guiding future generations.

◆ **Have a thesis:** Like college term papers, your scholarship essay needs to have an overall point. You should make this point explicit—don't leave the reader guessing! Make your point early on in your essay—as early as possible! Unlike a resume, the scholarship essay is much more than a list of your accomplishments. In the scholarship essay, every detail you include should serve a governing idea—that is your thesis.

✍ Tip: After writing a draft of your essay, step back and ask yourself, “What is the overall point that I'm trying to make in this essay? Can I articulate this overall point in one or two sentences?” Remember, the scholarship essay essentially functions as a persuasive paper to convince the reader to see you in a winning light. To that end, your thesis should be self-empowering, promising, and constructive.

◆ **Strategically recycle past essays:** When it comes to scholarship essays, there is no need to reinvent the wheel. You can (and should) use your previous scholarship essays as templates for your current scholarship application. While in theory different scholarships set their own essay prompts, in practice, scholarship essay prompts often ask a similar question: How has your past experience shaped the person you are today and what does that say about your future promise. This does not mean, however, that you should simply cut and paste your old essay. You should always let the new scholarship prompt guide you: highlight those aspects in the old essay that the scholarship committee is seeking and, likewise, minimize those aspects that are irrelevant.

✍ Tip: If you have won a scholarship that required a personal essay, use this essay as your core template—you won money using it in the past, and it will likely win you more in the future. If you don't have a winning scholarship essay yet, don't worry. You can use your college admissions essay as a starting point. And you know that's a winner, because here you are at UCLA!



◆ **Don't tell a sob story:** The goal of your essay is *not* to make the reader feel sorry for you. While scholarship committees love reading about personal hardships and challenges, it's not the personal travails that they're looking for; rather, *it's how you overcame them* that is key.

✍ Example: In the movie “Groundhog Day,” the Bill Murray character gets shot, hit by the train, and falls from a building. If this character were applying for a scholarship, he would be unwise to conclude, “Given all of the aforementioned misfortunes, my life has been awful and terrible.” He would be better served with the following approach: “While any one of these horrendous misfortunes would have demoralized the average person, my tenacity and grit pushed me to strive on in hope for a better tomorrow.” In short, put a positive spin on a negative experience, or make lemonade out of a lemon!

◆ **Don't regurgitate your resume:** The key difference between a resume and a personal essay is that while the former largely relies on the factual experiences of your professional life, the latter focuses largely on the *significance and meaning* of your life experiences. Your essay should not cram as many accomplishments, goals, or experiences on the page as possible; rather, it should *selectively and strategically* choose those autobiographical details that support the overall thesis. Remember, it is not the reader's job to infer why you're including certain facts in your essay; it is *your* job to explain, comment or reflect on the significance of those facts to you.

✍ Example:

Weak: “I have volunteered at the West Los Angeles Animal Shelter for the past two years.”

Stronger: “As a volunteer at the West Los Angeles Animal Shelter for the past two years, tending to the city's most vulnerable dogs and cats, I have renewed my commitment to pursuing non-profit veterinary medicine.”

Writing a scholarship essay? Got a scholarship question?
Make an appointment to meet with a pro!
Call the SRC!
310-206-2875

Stay Organized: Calendar Systems for Scholarships

By Rebecca Lippman, SRC Staff

When you start identifying scholarships for which you are eligible, you have just begun a long journey towards winning awards. Once you have spent a few days searching through the internet, you'll quickly realize that staying organized will be key to maintaining consistent and efficient application habits. Spreadsheets, charts, handwritten journals and online calendar systems are all tools that can help you keep track of past searches and future deadlines.

The main purpose of creating a calendar or spreadsheet is to store information in a way that is organized and easily accessible. Important information to note includes scholarship deadlines, expected award amount, required materials and the exact tasks associated with each scholarship. No matter how you store this information, make sure that your system clearly and efficiently communicates the effort you will need to make in order to complete each application. This way, even if a deadline sneaks up on you, you will be able to set aside extra time accordingly.

Read on for a quick tutorial on how to use Google Calendar, which is already incorporated into your UCLA email account, to store crucial application information.

In the "My Calendars" section to the left of your screen, press the downward-facing arrow and select "Create a New Calendar." I suggest you title it "Scholarships." By creating a new calendar, you will add a separate layer to your personal calendar. This way you will have the option to turn the "Scholarships" calendar "on" or "off" so that it won't interfere too much or add clutter to your daily schedule.

Every time you create a new event related to scholarship applications, make sure you select the "Scholarships" calendar in the drop-down option. As the screenshot below shows, each calendar event should include information that is essential for determining the work necessary for completing the application.

Essential entries include:

- The URLs of related websites and access to the online application
- Date application opens
- Date application closes
- Award amount
- Personal statement prompt and word limit
- Number of letters of recommendation
- Unofficial or official transcripts
- Additional application instructions

The screenshot shows a Google Calendar event creation interface. At the top, there are buttons for "SAVE", "Discard changes", "Delete", and a "More Actions" dropdown menu. Below these is a text input field for "Name of Scholarship". The date is set to "4/30/2017" to "4/30/2017", with "All day" checked and "Repeat..." unchecked. There are tabs for "Event details" and "Find a time".

The "Where" field contains "URL for website and online application details" with a "map" link below it. The "Video call" section has an "Add video call" link. The "Calendar" dropdown is set to "Scholarships". The "Created by" field is empty.

The "Description" field contains a list of items: "The URL address of related websites and access to the online application", "Date Application Opens", "Date Application Closes", "Award Amount", "Personal Statement Prompt and Word Limit", "Number of Letters of Recommendation", "Unofficial or Official Transcripts", and "Additional Application Instructions".

On the right side, there is an "Add guests" section with an "Enter guest email address" input and an "Add" button. Below that, the "Guests can" section has three options: "modify event" (unchecked), "invite others" (checked), and "see guest list" (checked).

At the bottom, there is an "Attachment" section with an "Add attachment" link, an "Event color" section with a row of color swatches (red, blue, light blue, teal, green, yellow, orange, red with checkmark, purple, grey), and a "Notifications" section with "No notifications set" and an "Add a notification" link.

2017-18 UCLA College Division of Undergraduate Education Donor Scholarships

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must

- Be a UCLA undergraduate student enrolled full time within the College of Letters and Science
- Demonstrate **FINANCIAL NEED** by **completing the FAFSA** (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>) **or Dream Application** (<https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>)
- Fill out an application online, available at http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu/DUE/Cont_Students.html
- Provide all supporting documentation, including an **official or unofficial transcript** and a copy of the **PAL (Provisional Award Letter)** or **FAN (Financial Aid Notification)** letter. **DO NOT SUBMIT A DPR.**
- Submit completed applications to UCLA Scholarship Resource Center, 330 De Neve Drive, 233 Covell Commons, Box 957247, Los Angeles, CA 90095-7247.

DUE MAY 15

Myrtle Hickey De Luce Scholarship: preference to graduates of Lincoln, Belmont, John Marshall, or other LAUSD high schools who participate in at least one extracurricular activity.

Heather L. Kase Endowed Scholarship: preference to female undergraduates of the Jewish faith who demonstrate financial need and academic potential.

Louis Levy Endowed Scholarship: students should have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, demonstrate financial need and have graduated from a CA public high school.

Los Angeles Chapter of the Links Scholarship: preference to African-American women students who demonstrate financial need and have a strong record of community service.

Bess F. Raab Scholarship: preference to students with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA; must provide evidence of participation in at least one extracurricular activity at UCLA or in the community.

Rancho Park Rotary Club Scholarship: preference to full-time UCLA seniors of Iranian/Persian descent who actively participate in community service and demonstrate strong financial need; minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA.

John Ringlbauer & Morris Brown UCLA Veteran Scholarships: awarded to a full-time UCLA student who is either currently enlisted or is a veteran of the Armed Forces and who honorably served the US. Preference to those who made the greatest commitments or sacrifices during their service.

Louis and Zephyr Stuart Scholarship: preference to Armenian students who demonstrate leadership through extracurricular activities at UCLA and in the community; minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Jo-Belle Wolf Undergraduate Scholarship: preference to female students born in the US; minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

DUE JUNE 30

Nancy Diane Orford Scholarship: preference to students with cystic fibrosis or other disability.

Virginia Frey Scholarship: for first-year students entering UCLA who are graduates of El Monte High School (El Monte, CA).

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DUE JUNE 30

National Notary Foundation Scholarship: preference to students with a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA and CA residents with strong leadership skills (for incoming freshmen only).

Donald R. Shepherd Scholarship: preference to students from San Diego County with a minimum 3.75 cumulative GPA (for incoming freshmen only).

Gertrude Pomish Scholarship: preference to students who actively participate in and demonstrate a strong record of community service (for incoming freshmen only).

Leah Bettelman: available to incoming first-year students with high merit and high financial need.

Ola Zuckerman Class of 1934 Scholarship: available to entering first-year UCLA students with high merit and financial need.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

Q & A

Q: Is it available?

A: Summer aid from UCLA is available to newly-admitted and continuing UCLA students enrolled in UCLA Summer Sessions, the College Summer Institute, Summer Sessions at another UC (cross-campus enrollment) or the UC Summer Travel Program. You can only receive assistance for ONE summer program. Unfortunately, financial aid is no longer available for Non-UC Study Abroad programs.

Q: How do I apply?

A: In addition to completing the FAFSA, you must also complete the online Summer Financial Aid Application. The application and filing timeline will vary depending on the summer program for which you seek assistance. The UCLA Summer Session application is available on the UCLA Financial Aid Office website beginning April 1 (http://www.fao.ucla.edu/summer/Summer_Info.htm). The priority deadline for submitting the summer application is April 30 to be considered for all types of aid. If your summer application is filed after April 30, and/or your FAFSA is submitted after March 2, you will be considered as a late applicant and the types of aid available to you will be limited. Please check the UCLA FAO's home page for information about applications and deadlines for other summer programs.

**Remember, you must apply separately
for summer financial aid!**

For more information visit the UCLA Financial Aid Office website at
<http://www.fao.ucla.edu>

Take advantage of these GREAT scholarship resources:

- ⇒ Extensive Library
- ⇒ Workshops Every Quarter
- ⇒ Scholarship Website
- ⇒ One-on-one Counseling
- ⇒ Writing Assistance
- ⇒ Even a Typewriter!

Scholarship Resource Center Spring 2017 Workshop Schedule

*All workshops are held in Covell 229 and include a personalized follow-up counseling session.
Sign up for a workshop through MY.UCLA.EDU.*

It's all waiting for you at the

UCLASRC

Scholarship Resource Center

*guiding UCLA students through
the scholarship process*

233 Covell Commons
(310) 206-2875

Open Monday to Friday

11 am—6 pm

src@college.ucla.edu

www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu

Secrets to Winning College Cash

April 5	Wednesday	5:30-6:00 PM
April 11	Tuesday	4:30-5:00 PM
April 20	Thursday	4:30-5:00 PM
April 24	Monday	5:30-6:00 PM
April 28	Friday	4:30-5:00 PM
May 8	Monday	5:00-5:30 PM
May 19	Friday	4:30-5:00 PM

How to Win Scholarships

April 12	Wednesday	5:00-5:30 PM
May 2	Tuesday	5:00-5:30 PM

How to Find Scholarships

April 18	Tuesday	5:00-5:30 PM
May 15	Monday	4:30-5:00 PM

How to Write Personal Statements

April 13	Thursday	4:30-5:30 PM
May 12	Friday	4:30-5:30 PM
May 15	Wednesday	5:00-6:00 PM

How to Get Letters of Recommendation

April 7	Friday	4:30-5:00 PM
April 19	Wednesday	5:00-5:30 PM
May 4	Thursday	5:00-5:30 PM

Join our fan page
on Facebook to get
alerts about
upcoming
scholarships!