



UCLA Scholarship Resource Center STRATEGIES

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The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Scholarship Applicants

By Mac Harris, SRC Staff

1. Be Proactive.

No matter who you are and no matter what your background, there are scholarships out there waiting for you to win them. The trick is taking the initiative to find those scholarships. The most effective students we encounter at the Scholarship Resource Center frequently use our library of scholarship books to search for new scholarship listings.

2. Stick to a Schedule.

The most successful scholarship applicants treat the process like a class or a research project: they set particular days and times each week when they work on scholarships, whether searching for new ones or working on an existing application. Even if that means only 1-2 hours per week, sticking to a scholarship schedule keeps you on top of deadlines and ensures a higher quality for your application than a last-minute binge strategy would.

3. Get Organized.

Keep a list of the scholarships that most interest you, whether as an Excel document or on a piece of paper. Be sure to record the key information about each one—the deadline and the requirements (essay, letter of recommendation, transcript, etc.). Keep your scholarship materials, especially your essays, together with that list, so that you will have them when you need them.

4. Know Your Teachers.

When the time comes to request a letter of recommendation for a scholarship, the most effective applicants do not need to squirm about whether or not they should ask their TA or professor to write one, because they have already established relationships with TAs and professors by occasionally attending office hours to ask

questions or advice (no need to stalk). They also give their recommenders plenty of time in advance of the deadline since they know how busy those TAs and professors are.

5. Read Applications Carefully.

Most scholarship applications yield important insights into the kind of student they want to reward, if you read them carefully. Some will even describe the basis on which they will evaluate your essay(s). It is also a great idea to go beyond the application and do some research on the people and/or organization offering the scholarship. What are their backgrounds and interests? They are probably looking to reward a student who complements those.

6. Seek Help.

Highly effective scholarship applicants are not an island. They ask other people to read and critique their scholarship essays. At UCLA, they especially take advantage of the writing help on scholarship essays offered by the Scholarship Resource Center, and make appointments with staff members to help brainstorm for their essays and review drafts.

7. Keep Tinkering.

You can always improve your application and your profile to give them a better chance. While it is a good idea to recycle scholarship essays to cut down on your workload, keep looking for improvements you can make to those old essays. If your community service record seems too minimal to apply for many scholarships, consider joining a community-service student group that appeals to you.



Inside this issue:

Habits of Scholarship Winners	1
Don'ts for LORs	2
Analyzing Your First Draft	3
Spotlight on a Scholarship Winner	4-5
Scholarship Word Search	6
Phi Beta Kappa FAQ	7
SRC Workshop Schedule	8

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

Let us know!

src@college.ucla.edu

4 Don'ts For Your Letter of Rec

Everyone needs a letter of recommendation at some point – whether it's for a scholarship, internship, grad school, or another program. Asking for letters can be anxiety-provoking, which is one of the reasons the SRC offers workshops on Letter of Recommendation every quarter. (Please see our schedule on p.8!) There, we cover important basics: what the purpose of a letter of rec is, what a strong letter should include, how to ask for a strong letter, and what materials to give your letter writers so they have the information they need.

Savvy applicants will also want to make sure they're steering clear of the following missteps – the things you should seriously, seriously *NOT* do when seeking a recommendation.

1. Don't wait until the last minute to ask for a letter.

Understand that your letter writers are busy – especially at certain times of year. Note that a lot of deadlines for scholarships and grad school fall around the same time as finals/grading. Your professors and TAs will be busy... so be considerate and give them plenty of time. They will be happier to write for you if you give them enough time to do it.

2. Don't ask someone who doesn't know you well.

A letter that doesn't include details or that suggests the writer doesn't really know you can really work against you. This means that it doesn't make sense to ask someone famous just because they're famous or important: they also must know you and be able to write about your skills, abilities, and how you meet the program's criteria.

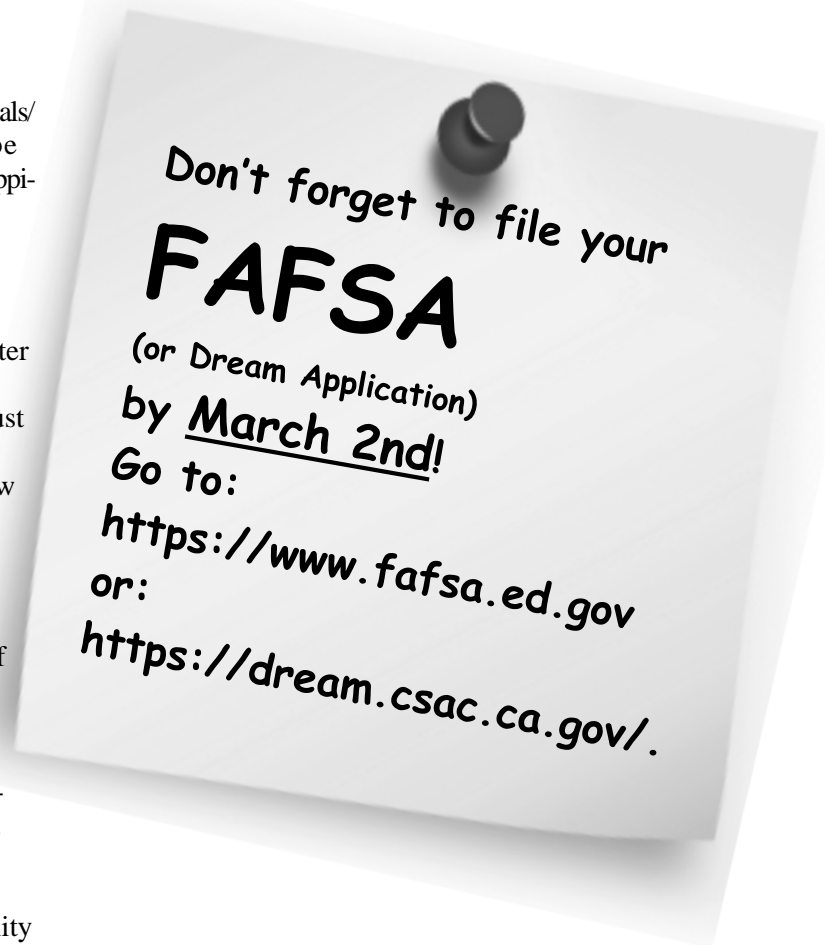
3. Don't neglect strategy.

This can be tough, because sometimes it's hard just to think of enough people who know you well enough to write a good letter! (Especially early in your UCLA career.) But think about what the application is asking for, and which recommenders may be best able to address those criteria. For example, if the scholarship emphasizes research, be sure that you have a letter from someone who can comment on your research skills (and who has worked with you in a research setting). If the award is focused on leadership and community service, consider asking the person who has supervised your work in the campus or community organizations you work with, and who will be able to discuss your impact. If the scholarship is for History students, ask your History professor. *Think strategically.*

4. Don't be pushy.

If someone tells you they can't write you a letter (or doesn't feel comfortable doing so), don't push! They're doing you a favor. It's much better to learn beforehand that a professor doesn't feel comfortable writing you a strong letter than to learn that after the fact – when you get turned down for the scholarship because the letter was weak or lukewarm.

Related, once someone agrees to write, don't be aggressive with your follow-up. If it's getting close to the deadline, the letter hasn't been submitted, and you're anxious, check in politely. And always send a thank you note.



5 Questions for Analyzing your First Draft

By Rebecca A. Lippman, SRC Staff

The most common question that I have when reading initial drafts of my students' personal statements is "What is your argument?"

Most students do not realize that the process of writing a scholarship application is a form of argumentation or persuasion. It's impossible to identify all of the elements of a strong argument in a first draft. The best arguments usually appear in later drafts when you have a clearer sense of what information to include and exclude. Through critical analysis and revision you will strengthen your argument and increase your chances of winning.

The goal of draft analysis is to consider only the text that you have already written, not the grand ideas that you wish you'd written. Don't try to start re-writing your draft while you're analyzing it. Pretend that you are someone like me: an outside reader who wants to get a quick sense of what is on the page (not what's in your head).

Re-read your draft and ask yourself the following five questions. Then make a list or color-code the parts of the essay that answer each of these questions. If you are missing some of the answers, make a list of facts and ideas you want to include in the next draft.

1. What specific facts do I share regarding my immediate goals, and long-term future?

A strong argument is one that shows the committee that if you receive funding to achieve your short-term goals, then you'll be more prepared to have an impactful long-term future. So you have to define both types of future goals.

2. Do I clearly explain how my sense of identity, past experiences, skills, and accomplishments make me the right person to achieve the goals I've set for myself?

A clear argument will only include pieces of information that are necessary to show that you are a person who is capable of and passionate about accomplishing the specific goals that you have set for yourself. You can cut everything else out.

3. How do I explain to the reader that there is a personal motivation behind my future goals?

The importance of bringing up the past is to show that you have thought carefully about why you want to accomplish the goals you have identified. If there is no relationship between the past that you describe and your motivation to accomplish certain goals, then you are likely telling the wrong story.

4. Do I describe or define my sense of identity? How is my identity related to the mission of this particular funding organization?



If an organization is looking for candidates from a specific community, you can bet that the organization understands how incredibly diverse that community can be. Through your statement you have a chance to show or explain what "identity" means through the specificity of your own life and experiences, which means you get to define, describe, or even challenge common definitions of your community.

5. Is there a sentence that clearly states the relationship between my goals and the goals of the organization? Do I explain how my goals will benefit other people or organizations?

Be as specific as possible about why your goals matter. For example:

Research-Related Essay:

Weak: My work will save the world from sickness.

Stronger: My contribution to research about machine learning as a tool for analyzing medical photography will have an impact in communities outside of the lab.

Community-Based Essay:

Weak: I want to give back to my community as a future lawyer.

Stronger: Completing fieldwork as a Sociology major will prepare me to train as a lawyer who is critical of the social dynamics of the law in the daily lives of people in my community.

Once you've carefully considered the content of your essay, write a new draft!

Spotlight on a Winner:

Latrice White, UCLA Travel Study Scholarship Winner

By Grant Rosson, SRC Staff

If you are thinking about studying abroad this summer, you might consider following the example of Latrice White. Last summer, Latrice studied in Hong Kong University's Business Leadership and Communication program on UCLA Travel Study Scholarship. As part of her scholarship, she now works as a Travel Study Outreach Coordinator for the International Education Office. We asked Latrice to share some of her experiences, to give students a sense of what it takes to win a travel study scholarship, what student life abroad is like, and what you can do to take advantage of UCLA's great study abroad opportunities. If her story inspires you, reach out to the SRC, just like Latrice did, and start funding your study abroad adventure today!

SRC: *We'd like to get to know you. Can you tell us about what you are studying at UCLA?*

Latrice: I'm a second-year studying Business Economics – but I am probably going to switch into International Development Studies with a Global Studies minor, since I want to work in international business. Business Economics focuses on economics, but with IDS I'll get a more holistic view of socio-economics, especially with the Global Studies minor added to it.

SRC: *Can you tell us a little bit about the travel study program you went on?*

L: It was a 28-day program called the "Business Leadership and Communications" program. We took two classes. One was called "Strategic Communications" and one was called "Business Leadership." Both were taught by the same professor, two to three times per week, usually early in the week so that we could have the rest of the week to explore and travel.

SRC: *And how were the classes different from classes at UCLA?*

L: At UCLA classes are more theory based, at least for me, because I'm a north campus major. But in Hong Kong, they would show us how to do something, like a persuasion presentation for example, and then we would actually have to do it. Our teacher organized a party where all these UCLA alums who work in international business came, and he told us to use the event to practice the "business storytelling" strategies that we had been learning. So, he taught us to communicate, and then we would go out immediately and do it.



SRC: *Did you feel like you could have taken these classes anywhere, or were they tailored specifically to Hong Kong?*

L: The professor incorporated Hong Kong and Chinese culture into all the content of the class, so Hong Kong was a case study for the principles we were learning. We weren't taking a class about Hong Kong, but we were taking a class *in* Hong Kong, so it naturally became part of the class. And when we stepped outside the classroom, we would see examples of all the things that we learned in class. So the class helped us see different aspects of the culture we were living in.

SRC: *And did the program give you a better sense of what you want to do after you graduate, or what part of the world you want to work in?*

L: I'm keeping an open mind! But I was really inspired by the professor who taught my travel study program. He has a major consulting firm, and he taught us all about the methods he uses when he is consulting with big companies. One of the companies that he consulted with was the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway System, which is a major thing that everybody in Hong Kong works with. He was really well connected. Our TA was really helpful too. He worked for an employment agency, so he would constantly let us know about job opportunities he heard about all around the world. So if I ever need a job after graduation, I'll know who to call!

Continued on p.5

Cont'd: Travel Study Scholarship Winner

SRC: *And now that you're back, what are you up to?*

L: I am working as the Outreach Coordinator for the International Education Office, since that's part of my scholarship. So far, I have been organizing and working at a lot of events. For International Education Week, for example, my fellow coordinators and I put up fliers and worked at different stations to talk with students and give information about studying abroad.

SRC: *What kind of questions do students usually ask about travel study?*

L: They usually ask about finances and how long the programs are. A lot of students think that studying abroad takes up your whole summer, but my program was only 28 days. So you can study abroad, then come back and do an internship or do summer sessions at UCLA. It doesn't take up your whole summer, like some people think.

SRC: *What are some resources for financing travel study?*

L: The International Education Office offers a few scholarships, like the one I did, the Summer Travel Studies Scholarship, the Global Citizens Scholarship, and another one for creative bloggers. But students should also check out the Scholarship Resource Center, for the big binder of study abroad scholarships and their pamphlets about scholarship search engines.

My scholarship specifically was the Summer Travel Study Scholarship, which pays the tuition for your program, except for airfare and books, and it refunds you the initial application deposit. There are two tracks you can take for that scholarship. One is the "Outreach Coordinator," which is what I do, where I try to get people interested in studying abroad and going to our office and talking to our advisors. The other is the "Outreach Correspondent" track, for artistic people, who like to blog, create pamphlets, take pictures. You have to write two essays and four proposals of cool ideas for getting people interested in studying abroad.

SRC: *What are some of the "Outreach" ideas you are working on?*

L: One of my proposals is an international game night, since games are a fun way for people to connect and learn while playing games from around the world. I'm planning that now. My target audience is first-year students and international students, but any student who wants to study abroad will be welcome. I'm planning that now, and it will be in either winter or spring, so people should keep an eye out for that.

SRC: *What would you tell students who are interested in studying abroad?*


Don't be afraid to push yourself to explore or do things that maybe you wouldn't do otherwise.

L: Don't be afraid to go anywhere. I originally applied to go to Greece, because I've studied it and it seemed fun. But that trip was cancelled, and the study abroad advisor had to help me find a new program. When she suggested Hong Kong, I was like "Ah! I don't know anything about Hong Kong!" But now looking back, I can

say, definitely take advantage of all the possibilities, even the ones you're not sure about. Because now I think Hong Kong is so amazing. Don't be afraid to push yourself to explore or do things that maybe you wouldn't do otherwise.

SRC: *That's great advice. Any other thoughts to leave our readers with?*

L: I would just tell people to plan early, and research all of your options. There is UC Travel Study, but there is also UC Education Abroad which is for the entire UC system, and there are outside study abroad programs as well. Seek out every option available and see how you could benefit from it and put it to good use. Don't be afraid to go for it. Just do it!

 **Plan a visit to the Scholarship Resource Center to explore our study abroad resources, including scholarship search engines and a binder full of opportunities all over the world. Our staff would be happy to assist you with your plans!**



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Scholarship Word Search!!

Finding scholarships requires searching ^{HIGH} and _{low}, UP and down, *diagonal*, forwards and sdrawkcb.
The right opportunity for you is out there—you just have to go and find it!
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*After you have found all the words below, SEARCH for our office on campus to find out more!
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H Y M J R I P N Y N J M P N L D Y W P P M T Z D Q G R
I T W T M H S E A R C H A P P L Y W I N R Y Z J Y N M
S E Y B K S M V Z B D O D N X B X M P T A R V L M M N
P I P N Z R Q M T D Q Y V J L T V D W R T G D Y J L M
A C Z X T A M L W N T L T E M B N W R G D R P G T N B
N O W J D L M B Y R P Y P L L D N U M W B P Y Q P L Z
I S T N Y O L R X Y V L G X M C M T L M Y B V Y T T T
C D N M X H M D N M N L J Z T M O G Q V K Y M P G T G
S R Y T K C Y R B N V M W V I N Z M D B Q R H Q F R R
C A Y G M S K L G R D R L J T Z D R M D R I Y A B N M
H O W V V E B T D Y R X G Q N R G T X O B Z F T L N T
O B M Q R K Y J R V W M R Y J M Y R M E N S G M V K N
L R K B Q C D Y Q N L D N Y V B Q D T T A S L D J V Q
A A Y P D E N V T K N D W J T B J A L J M Q M Y M X K
R T T Q X N W X D M Q L J X T J K D P T B Y M L J R B
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Search Terms

UCLA Mortar Board Society
Jim Murray
Undergraduate Research Portal

Hispanic Scholarship Fund
Covel Commons
Beinecke Scholarship
Phi Beta Kappa

Unigo
FAFSA
Search Apply Win

BONUS: Bring in your completed word search puzzle for a free scholarship consultation! (LOL, they're always free...)

Phi Beta Kappa

By Jeremy Schmidt, SRC Staff

What do Peyton Manning and Ruth Bader Ginsburg have in common? How about W. E. B. Du Bois and Sheryl Sandberg? Or actress Glenn Close and biochemist Roger Tsien? All six—along with 17 U.S. Presidents, 37 other Supreme Court Justices, and more than 130 Nobel Laureates—are members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Φ What is Phi Beta Kappa?

The main purpose of PBK is to recognize students who have achieved distinction in *both* the liberal arts and the sciences. Formed in 1776 during the American Revolution at the College of William & Mary, PBK takes its name from the Greek initials for the ancient motto, “Love of learning is the guide of life.” It remains the oldest and most respected academic honors society in the country.

Φ What are the benefits of Phi Beta Kappa?

Employers, professional schools, and graduate programs view election into PBK as a competitive advantage and a mark of personal distinction. Members also have full access to the programs and opportunities directed by the national PBK network: scholarships, awards, lectureships, publications, the renowned Visiting Scholars program, and numerous initiatives with partner institutions.

After graduation, members may join PBK associations in their communities. These organizations bring together members of all ages, offering a wide range of educational programs, community service projects, and networking opportunities. The PBK Alumni of Southern California, for example, offers scholarship opportunities for new members pursuing graduate study and international students attending graduate programs in California.

Φ How do I become a member of Phi Beta Kappa?

You do not need to apply in order to be considered for PBK. The Degree Progress Report of any senior who meets minimum GPA standards (3.67-3.85, depending on the number of credits completed) will be forwarded automatically to the UCLA PBK Council.

The Council looks for transcripts that demonstrate that a student has (1) completed at least 120 units of coursework in the traditional disciplines of the natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences, and humanities; (2) pursued ambitious courses in different branches of the liberal arts and sciences; (3) demonstrated intermediate facility in a second language; and (4) completed at least one course in mathematics, logic, or statistics.

For precise information about eligibility criteria, the nomination process, and the benefits of PBK, visit the websites for the UCLA campus chapter (scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu/phi-beta-kappa) and the nationwide organization (www.pbk.org/). Then, stop by the SRC office to discuss your eligibility. If you believe you’re a candidate for nomination but haven’t received an email notification by the end of April of your senior year, contact the SRC’s PBK officer at (310) 825-4112 or pbk@college.ucla.edu.

INTERESTED IN SPORTS JOURNALISM?

Write an essay on a topic related to UCLA’s sports history!

Are you looking for \$5,000 to help pay your way through school?
Are you a sophomore or junior in good standing (with a GPA of 3.0 or above)?
Then what are you waiting for? You are eligible for:

THE JIM MURRAY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

For more information or an application, drop by the UCLA Scholarship Resource Center, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., M-F, or call us at (310) 206-2875.
Campus deadline is in April.

Take advantage of these GREAT scholarship resources:

- ⇒ Extensive Library
- ⇒ Workshops Every Quarter
- ⇒ Scholarship Website
- ⇒ One-on-one Counseling
- ⇒ Writing Assistance
- ⇒ Scholarship Search Mentoring

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

Follow us to get alerts about upcoming scholarships!
Facebook.com/UCLASRC

Scholarship Resource Center Winter 2018 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.*

Secrets to Winning College Cash

Jan 9	Tuesday	5:00-5:30 PM
Jan 18	Thursday	5:00-5:30 PM
Jan 22	Monday	4:00-4:30 PM
Feb 7	Wednesday	5:00-5:30 PM
Feb 14	Wednesday	4:30-5:00 PM
Feb 20	Tuesday	5:00-5:30 PM

How to Win Scholarships

Jan 10	Wednesday	5:00-5:30 PM
Feb 2	Friday	5:00-5:30 PM

How to Find Scholarships

Jan 16	Tuesday	5:00-5:30 PM
Feb 1	Thursday	5:30-6:00 PM

How to Write Personal Statements

Jan 25	Thursday	5:00-6:00 PM
Feb 13	Tuesday	5:00-6:00 PM

How to Get Letters of Recommendation

Feb 8	Thursday	4:30-5:00 PM
Feb 22	Thursday	5:00-5:30 PM

***Special Event! SRC and ORL Kick Start Your Scholarship Search.
Tues, Jan 23. 7 pm. Covell Grand Horizon Room.
Bring your laptop and a friend!***