



UCLA Scholarship Resource Center STRATEGIES

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How to Talk to Your Professor

By Kat Webster, SRC Staff

For many students, one stage of the scholarship process can prove especially daunting: getting letters of recommendation! In order to get a good letter of recommendation, your letter writer should know you and how you approach your work fairly well, and he or she should have a positive view of both your attitude and your aptitude. How do you cultivate a good working relationship with an instructor? You go to office hours. But once you sit down in their office, take out your notebook, and introduce yourself...then what? What do you say, especially if you don't have any questions about the class? Here is a quick guide of "dos" and "don'ts" to make you an effective office hour regular.

First of all, don't let yourself get away with the "I don't have any questions" excuse. If you go through your notes, your readings, problem sets, and any power point or lecture materials the professor makes available, you are more likely than not to find something that made you scratch your head when you first bumped into it. If nothing turns up, though, there are a few tactics you can use to generate some

questions that will both show the instructor your strengths as a student and give you a better command of the course material. Let's say the course is completely out of your comfort zone—maybe you are taking it only to fulfill a requirement, and it is out of your home department (perhaps you are a biology major, but the only course you could sign up for that fit your schedule was a survey of Scandinavian literature). This is a good thing! As a general principle, avoid statements like "this class has nothing to do with my major" in office hours, but starting out with a question like "this class is something different for me, and I am a little nervous. Do you have

any advice for a first-time student in this topic?" is a great idea. If the course you are taking with the professor is in your major, or at least an area that you are very familiar with, there are other options. Try thinking comparatively and drawing connections between your current class and others you have taken in the department. If you've noticed differences in the methods that other teachers use to approach similar subjects, you might ask



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Scholarships in the Health Sciences

By Francesca Marx, SRC Staff



Many students come to UCLA hoping to pursue a career in the health sciences as doctors, psychologists, physical therapists, researchers, or other healthcare professionals. Not

only are there many opportunities for academic study, but there are also scholarships and internships to help fund your studies and give you valuable experience along the way. Students don't always realize that there are opportunities for them to learn about a specific field while still an undergraduate – no need to wait until graduate or medical school!

Some students know from the start that they want to work in a particular field or on a specific illness. For example, students interested in developing new treatments for Lupus can apply for the **Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship** program (<http://www.lupus.org/research/gina-m.-finzi-memorial-student-summer-fellowship-program>). There are also scholarships that focus on a particular field. For example, there are numerous awards for undergraduates interested in psychology, such as those offered by Psi Chi to undergraduates.



For students interested in neuroscience, there is **The Pauletta and Denzel Washington Family Gifted Scholars Program in Neuroscience**. Scholarships and intern-

ships in the health sciences are not limited to doctors and medical research; for instance there are scholarships for nurses, physical therapists, and dentists. Some examples include the many nursing scholarships offered by **Exceptional Nurse.com** (<http://exceptionalnurse.com/scholarship.php>) or the scholarships offered by the **Physician Assistant Foundation** (<http://www.pa-foundation.org>).

Keep your eyes open for scholarships that relate to the health sciences but overlap with other fields. An example is the **Bioethics Student Writing Competition**, which is open to students in medicine, Law, Dentistry, Podiatry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Science, Healthcare Administration, or Public Health (<http://www.acim.org/dirAbout/Competition/2014-Student-Writing-Competition-now-Available.aspx>).



UCLA also has numerous resources for aspiring health care professionals through affiliated or on-campus programs. The Pilipino Alumni Association of UCLA offers the **Richard Lou Contreras Pre-Med scholarship**, which is open to not only to US citizens but also to undocumented students. For more information about scholarships and other opportunities for students interested in careers in the Health Sciences, please stop by our office and we'll help you get started finding and applying for these terrific opportunities.

Join our fan page on Facebook/[uclasrc](https://www.facebook.com/uclasrc) to get alerts
on upcoming scholarships!
Also, follow us on Twitter @UCLASRC

Funding Triage: Where to Turn to on

By Hannah Nahm, SRC Staff

As Student Affairs Advisors, nothing is as gut-wrenching as seeing our students struggle financially to stay afloat and continue their educations. The burning question that students who have fallen on hard times is, "I need money fast, as in immediately. What scholarships can I apply for?"

However much we feel your pain, the short and tough-love answer is, applying to scholarships may not be the realistic solution to your current situation. Most scholarship applicants undergo an extensive review process, and the money usually is not disbursed until the next school year. Obviously, this would not alleviate the financial challenge you're facing in the short term.

According to the UCLA Economic Crisis Response (ECR) Team, you are not alone in finding yourself in a situation of financial crunch or even crisis. According to the ECR, the number of students experiencing financial hardship is projected to rise in the 2013-14 academic year. Our campus has various offices and resources you can turn to for help, depending on the degree of your financial difficulty. Here are some options you can consider:

1. Emergency Loan—for students requiring an amount of \$200 or less
2. Living Expense Loan—for the needs of employed students who provide current employment verification on company letterhead and request sums greater than \$200, but less than \$350
3. Financial Aid Advance—for student loan borrowers whose current quarter funds are delayed. This bridge loan provides a portion of the delayed funds and is made against electronically disbursed Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized, Federal Direct PLUS, Federal Perkins, and University Loans. You may only borrow against current quarter disbursements

***For more information on the above options you may visit the Loan Services Office located in A-227 Murphy Hall (9:00 A.M. to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday). They can also be reached at (310) 825-9864. <http://www.loans.ucla.edu/howtoobtainloan.html>

4. Students in Severe Economic Crisis
For students whose level of financial crisis exceeds the scope of the financial aid provisions as outlined above, the UCLA ECR Team is dedicated to helping you find a solution so that you may continue your work at UCLA.

Please contact the ECR Team at ECR@saonet.ucla.edu. If you wish to speak with the Economic Crisis Response Team Coordinator, Serifa Dela Cruz, you may reach her at (310) 206-1189.

<http://www.studentincrisis.ucla.edu/resources.html>

According to the ECR Team, the following is a step-by-step outline to help you better understand the process:

1. Student experiences severe financial crisis
2. Student contacts/is referred to ECR Team by phone or e-mail
3. ECR Team responds within 24 hours
4. ECR Team reviews student's case comprehensively
5. ECR Team Member meets with student to discuss all possible options



Have you won a scholarship with the help of the SRC? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Send us an email at src@college.ucla.edu or give us a call at 310.206.2875.

Getting Real with the SRC: Tough Love Answers to Gnarly Questions

By Hannah Nahm,
SRC Staff

Every day, students knock on the SRC's doors with questions ranging from the good, the bad, and the gnarly. The following is a compilation of hard questions and their corresponding no-nonsense answers. These are questions you may have asked us or wish you had the nerve to ask us. Here's the low-down:

Lazy Bruin: *"I hear there's millions of dollars in unclaimed scholarship money that's just sitting there for the taking. How do I claim that money? I'm willing to do nothing but the taking."*

Answer: Let's get real. If you're not willing to do anything, you're not going to win anything. This unclaimed fortune in scholarship cash is a myth if it means students are not required to put thought, effort, and initiative into their applications.

Regular Jo Bruin: *"What are some scholarships out there that don't require a personal statement? I want to avoid scholarships that require one because I have nothing to write about. I'm just an everyday student who gets good grades; I haven't overcome any significant obstacles, and nothing remarkable has happened in my life—in short, I'm just a boring Jo Schmo."*

Answer: Regular Jo, come to our office and tell us about this "boring" life of yours. You may have heard of the old saying, "One person's trash is another person's treasure." Well, we'll help you discover that your trash can be your

very own treasure, depending on how you use it and present it. Learn about the art of autobiographical alchemy at the SRC. You may be surprised how remarkable your so-called boring life really is.

Proxy Bruin: *"I've already had my mom/dad check out your center and they're searching for scholarships for me. So I have my bases covered and don't need to do my own visiting and searching."*



Answer: Come on now, Proxy, stop deploying/employing your parents as your scholarship undercover agents and come down to our center yourself. While we love and welcome our Bruin parents, they are not the enrolled students in need of scholarship funds—you are.

Sloppy Jo Bruin: *"I don't much care about the presentation aspect of my scholarship—I just cross out typos, use recycled or otherwise soiled/crumpled paper, and stuff my applications into whatever envelopes I can find (whether they barely fit or not). So why am I not winning scholarships? What am I doing wrong?"*

Answer: Dear Sloppy, your application gets no kudos for being ugly. Appearance counts.

Wall Street Bruin: *"I want to make a lucrative income off of scholarships, beyond what the eFAN says is my financial need. In theory, I can apply to, and win, millions of dollars in scholarships, right?"*

Answer: Dear Wall Street, what you're describing is called double-dipping, mildly put, and bluntly put, cheating. There are regulations and protocols enforced by the UCLA Financial Aid office as well as by scholarship-granting organizations to ensure that students' scholarship winnings do not exceed the eFAN financial-need ceiling.

Moral Dilemma Bruin: *"Should I lie on my application? I don't see the harm in fibbing a little if it will help me win a scholarship!"*

Answer: Dear Dilemma, define a lie. Applying for a scholarship earmarked for students from, say, a military background if you or your

family has never been involved with the military is lying. However, applying for a pre-law scholarship that requires students to show interest in pursuing law in the future is not lying, even if you might also be interested in pursuing a social work career and are not 100% sure you will go into law. Let your conscience guide you. The main rule of thumb is—don't lie. Remember that if you tell a lie on your application, you could lose your scholarship (or worse) if the fib, untruth, or misrepresentation is discovered. If you feel you should lie, you should think about why you feel the need to do so. Come to the Scholarship Resource Center so we can discuss your situation. We'll let you know the real deal.

INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN SPORTS JOURNALISM?

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.



Don't forget to file your FAFSA (or Dream Application) by March 2nd! Go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> or <https://scac.ca.gov/>

Developing a Scholarship Portfolio

By Elizabeth Raisanen, SRC Staff

A scholarship portfolio consists of the materials that you will develop and then disseminate to your instructors when you are requesting letters of recommendation. You will also use elements of your scholarship portfolio for your scholarship applications. If you keep your scholarship portfolio updated, you will find that the scholarship application process will be much easier for you, whether it's your first or fiftieth application! Read on for the contents of a typical scholarship portfolio that you can present to potential recommenders and/or scholarship committees.

Cover Letter

Your cover letter should detail who you are and why you are in need of financial assistance. It should also be customized to indicate how each scholarship organization can assist you in meeting your goals. Be sure to highlight any extracurricular activities or volunteer service that you have undertaken. If you are using your portfolio to request letters of recommendation from your professors or teaching assistants, mention in your letter which class you were enrolled in and how that class impacted your intellectual development. **Tip:** If you are requesting a letter of recommendation via email, your cover letter will constitute the body of your email.

Resume

A resume allows scholarship committees to determine whether you are a likely candidate for one of their current scholarships or if they will consider creating a scholarship to assist your specific academic situation. A resume also allows recommenders to highlight certain activities in their letters. **Tip:** Visit the UCLA Career Cen-

ter in the Strathmore Building for assistance with developing your resume.

Writing Sample(s)

When you are requesting letters of recommendation, you should always include a copy of the personal statement or statement of purpose that you have developed for your scholarship application(s) so that your recommenders will know how you are presenting yourself to scholarship committees. Make a writing appointment with

the SRC (310.206.2875) for assistance with developing and proof-reading your personal statements for scholarship applications. **Tip:** Most recommenders (though usually not scholar-

ship committees) will also want to see the essays that you wrote for their classes (if you have a copy with the instructor's comments on it, so much the better!) so that they can refresh their memories on the specific details of your academic work.

Transcript(s)

Most recommenders don't need you to send them a copy of your transcripts, but many scholarship committees require you to submit either official or unofficial academic transcripts as part of your application package. **Tip:** It's better for you to send your transcript with the rest of your application package, so arrange to pick up a copy from the Registrar's Office (1113 Murphy Hall). Remember that official transcript requests made via URSA and MyUCLA require three business days for processing. Transcripts are free, but any special handling will cost extra.

Visit the SRC to begin developing your portfolio!



About Me

(How to Talk, continued from page 1)

your instructor how his or her thoughts on the subject developed. This is also a great way to engage your professor in discussions about their research. They may say that their approach to teaching was developed through their own field-work or lab results. Another way to broach this question is to ask about why the instructor included a particular topic on the syllabus. Expressing interest in an article, book, or experiment is a good way of showing your enthusiasm and commitment to the course.

On a final note, there are some general, etiquette-based tips that it will help to observe. First, stay positive: if you are having trouble with a topic, express your frustration as, "I really want to understand this," not, "please explain this thing to me. I have looked at it for hours and it is impossible." Secondly, avoid asking off-topic questions that do not engage directly with course material right away. You and

your instructor may end up talking about his or her latest trip to Europe, or whether you both liked the latest Batman movie after you've been chatting about ring-opening polymerization, or heteroglossia in Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*, but most teachers are busy and would rather cut to the chase to help you with the information you need for the course. Lastly, if you really are just stopping by to chat, keep your eye on the clock, and keep your visit to about 15 minutes, especially if there are other students waiting! Showing respect for your peers who also need help, and for the professor's time, will say volumes about you as a student.

For more tips on cultivating positive relationships with your instructors, plan to attend one of the Scholarship Resource Center's "How to Get Letters of Recommendation" workshops this quarter! (See the Schedule of Workshops on page 8 for dates and times.)



**HOW'S THIS FOR A
SCHOLARSHIP?**

**The Donald A. Strauss
Scholarship Foundation For Public Service**

**will pay you \$10,000
(yes, \$10,000) to make your
Public Service Project A Reality**

Campus deadline: February 10, 2014

Visit the SRC or Honors Programs (A-311
Murphy Hall) for more information.

Take advantage of these FREE
resources and more!

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Workshops Every Quarter

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Even a Typewriter!

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

**Join our fanpage
on Facebook to get
alerts on upcoming
scholarships!**



Scholarship Resource Center Winter 2014 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

TUES Jan 7 5-5:30 PM

THUR Jan 16 5-5:30 PM

MON Jan 27 5:30-6 PM

WED Feb 12 5-5:30 PM

THUR Feb 20 5:30-6 PM

THUR Feb 27 5-5:30 PM

How to Win Scholarships

WED Jan 8 5-5:30 PM

FRI Feb 7 5-5:30 PM

How to Find Scholarships

WED Jan 15 5-5:30 PM

THUR Feb 6 5:30-6 PM

How to Write Personal Statements

WED Jan 22 5-6 PM

TUES Feb 4 5-6 PM

How to Get Letters of Recommendation

THUR Jan 30 5-5:30 PM

WED Feb 19 5-5:30 PM

SCHOLARSHIP EVENT WITH ORL

WHEN: Tuesday, Jan 14, 7:00 pm

WHERE: Grand Horizon Room in Covell

WHAT: Secrets for Winning College Cash
& How to Win Scholarships

** bring your laptop!*