



Scholarship Resource Center

STRATEGIES

FALL 2013/ VOL. 19 NO. 1

Scholarship APP-lications: Tech Savvy Tips for Your Scholarship Search

By: Elena Shih, SRC Staff

Earlier this year, a new tech startup announced the release of “Scholly,” the first scholarship APP available for download to smart phones and tablets (99 cents for iPhone and Android platforms). While Internet-based scholarship search engines have been an established tool for identifying scholarships, new forms of social media are re-inventing new technological possibilities for your scholarship search. Below, we share some of Scholly founders’ tips on how to make technology work for you, as well as some additional creative ways to let social media advance your scholarship search.

Q: How can students take advantage of technology in their scholarship search?

A: We recommend using all technology available in the search. The main thing is to keep track of scheduling for deadlines and keep on top of deadlines using the resources available on phones like the calendar and email reminders. We made Scholly to provide more features that use the technological resources on smartphones and tablets. For example, Scholly allows users to save a list of scholarships and to email the data to themselves as an Excel spreadsheet. We also allow users to add deadlines to their calendar and set reminders on when a scholarship is due.



Q: What makes Scholly unique?

A: Scholly has no sign-up process. Once you download the app, you start your search. It takes about four minutes to put in your parameters, and then you are matched with scholarships that you are eligible for. If in the past it took months to find relevant scholarships, now the APP makes it possible for the same to be accomplished in minutes. Most importantly, there are scholarships for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students.

Q: How can I use social media to assist me in my scholarship search?

A: In addition to smartphone and tablet applications, students can also add certain recommended pages to their social media feeds. Some recommended pages are Scholarship America’s page on Facebook, and @FAFSA, @USNewsEducation, @PayingFor School, @volunTEENnation. Social media is also changing the ways in which college scholarships are submitted and evaluated. For instance, Scholarship.com offers a \$1,000 scholarship for a creative tweet in response to a prompt. Similarly, CollegeScholarships.com has an annual \$1,000 “Blogging Scholarship,” awarded to the most interesting student blog as determined through public voting.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Scholarship
APP-lications: Tech
Savvy Tips for Your
Scholarship Search
page 1

10-Week Scholarship
Roadmap
page 2

Apply for Scholarships,
Build Crucial Career Skills
pages 3-4

UCLA Resources for
Scholarship Seekers
page 5

Q & A with the SRC
page 6

Innovative Funding
Sources for
Graduate Students
page 7

Fall Quarter
Workshop Schedule
page 8

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

10-Week Scholarship Roadmap

Week 1: Start Your Search

- Visit the SRC office (233 Covell).
- Talk to staff about scholarship resources.
- Begin searching in the SRC library.
- Check out the SRC website at www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu

Week 2: Use Online Tools

- Attend a Secrets for Winning College Cash workshop at Covell (our workshop schedule is on the back of this newsletter and on my.ucla.edu).
- Establish profiles on at least two online search databases.
- Visit your professors during office hours in order to build rapport for future letter of recommendation requests.

Week 3: Obtain Applications

- Go to the websites of scholarship programs you're interested in applying to. Many of them post their application materials online.
- If the application is not available online, contact the organization to ask for an application. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
- Carefully review the eligibility requirements and make sure you meet them.



Week 4: Draft Your Personal Statement

- Attend the SRC's "Writing Personal Statements" workshop.
- Brainstorm three unique characteristics or experiences.
- Draft a two-page statement about your experiences and goals.
- If you would like one-on-one help, call the SRC for an appointment (310-206-2875).

Week 5: Work on Your Resume

- Include concise descriptions of your jobs, activities, and honors.
- Don't limit yourself to one page, but don't go over two pages.
- Visit the Career Center for further resume help.
- Order transcripts. Official and unofficial transcripts are available from the registrar's office in Murphy Hall. You can also order official transcripts on URSA.

Week 6: Request Letters of Recommendation

- Ask for letters of recommendation at least three weeks before the scholarship deadline so as to give your recommenders plenty of time.
- Provide your recommenders with the information they need to write a strong letter— a copy of your resume, a copy of your personal statement, information about the scholarship, etc. Meet with them in person, if possible.
- Follow up with your recommenders. Give him/her a thank-you card.

Week 7: Organize!

- Take note of all deadlines and organize your application materials.
- Make sure you have gathered all of the supporting information you need.
- Focus your energy on the closest deadline.

Week 8: Update/Revise Your Personal Statement

- Review the draft you wrote and revise/polish it.
- Tailor your personal statement for each scholarship application.
- Have someone else read your essay to check for clarity and style. If you want another reader, call the SRC for an appointment.
- **PROOFREAD!**

Week 9: Assemble Materials

- Use a check list to ensure you've included all of the required materials.
- **PROOFREAD!**
- Make sure your name is on all of your application materials.
- The SRC offers a proofreading service for your completed application. Please allow the Center two days' turnaround time.

Week 10: Submit Application

- Mail your application at least three days in advance of the postmark deadline. If the deadline is a "received by" date, allow at least a week.
- Double-check the address.
- Contact the scholarship organization to ensure that all scholarship materials have been received.

*****Follow this roadmap at least once per quarter!**

Apply for Scholarships, Build Crucial Career Skills

By: Mac Harris, SRC Staff

Why bother applying for scholarships? In addition to the fact that highly winnable scholarship opportunities exist for every student willing to search for them (regardless of one's major, financial need, ethnic background, or GPA), applying for scholarships can improve your readiness to land a job or win admission to graduate or professional schools in the future. In applying for scholarships, you develop skills and insight that will likely impress job-search committees or graduate school-admission committees just as effectively as they would impress scholarship committees.



You can hone these desirable personal traits and professional skills by working

with experts in the field, an opportunity afforded, as it happens, by the UCLA Scholarship Resource Center. Each Student Affairs Advisor (SAA) at the SRC has applied for and attained scholarships, fellowships, jobs, and admission to graduate school (at UCLA and elsewhere). The SRC's SAAs can help you understand better what your educational and professional direction might be if you are unsure of it; teach you how to express that direction more effectively and build confidence in it; and help you understand better how to adapt your self-presentation to attract many different audiences.

***Are you an
Engineering major?
Don't forget to check out the
HSSEAS Scholarships! Online
applications are usually avail-
able early October and due in
early November.***

***Visit their website at
[http://www.seasoasa.ucla.edu/
student-opportunities/
scholarships-for-
undergraduates/
201213HSSEASScholar-
shipApplication](http://www.seasoasa.ucla.edu/student-opportunities/scholarships-for-undergraduates/201213HSSEASScholarshipApplication)***

No matter what career (or careers) you pursue, and even if you become your own boss, you will need the skills and self-awareness that applying for scholarships helps you to develop. For one thing, many scholarship essays require you to articulate your educational and/or professional goals. That can understandably sound scary to undergraduates more interested in the next party or the next video game than in future employment—it can even sound scary to the most studious and focused undergraduates (and graduates, for that matter)—but you don't need to know your exact goals.

All you need to do is start brainstorming a few possible future paths for yourself that you might enjoy or find rewarding. A scholarship essay that prompts you for these goals is not a binding contract—it's an opportunity to imagine possibilities for yourself. SRC Student Affairs Advisors can help you unlock future potential in your past activities that you may never even have known was there.

Even if you've already decided on a specific educational or professional path, applying for scholarships can help you better understand how to communicate your suitability for that path to your audience—be they donors, employers, or investors. To write winning scholarship essays, you must learn not only how to present your skill set and qualifications effectively, but how to tell a persuasive story about the specific beneficial impacts your use of those skills and qualifications will have on the communities that those donors, employers, or investors care about. SRC Student Affairs Advisors all have extensive backgrounds in writing disciplines and can help you learn how to tell more entertaining—and thus more successful—stories about your future and about how your past and present are preparing you to get there (even if you weren't sure before

you started the essay!).

The skills and self-knowledge you develop in applying for scholarships do not come instantly and thoroughly with your very first application, of course. It's a process, but it's a process that you will need to kickstart toward the end of your college career anyway—and one that you will need to continue throughout your career. Getting started now will make your transition to life after college much

smoother and more natural, and it will give you a big advantage over those who haven't put in the time and practice. In our experience, the students who put the most time and commitment into the scholarship process get the most out of it, both in terms of winning scholarships and gaining



crucial career skills that can help them win much more than that. So why not do yourself a favor and take advantage of the expert assistance and guidance that the SRC has to offer? Just drop by our office in 233 Covell Commons any time during business hours. You should also visit the UCLA Career Center (located on the second floor of the Strathmore Building), where you can receive free career counseling, resume-writing help, and assistance with preparing for job interviews. What are you waiting for? Visit the SRC and Career Center to get a head start on your future today!

Are You a Non-Traditional Student: a veteran, a parent, a transfer, a former foster youth, or an AB-540 student?

There is an office on campus that is here to help you network with other students like you and succeed at UCLA! Check out the Bruin Resource Center, located in B-44 Student Activities Center.

www.brc.ucla.edu

UCLA Resources for Scholarship Seekers

If you want...

You should go to...

→ Proof of enrollment to send to a scholarship organization or outside agency	→ The Registrar's Office to get a free Verification Transcript. The Registrar's Office is in 1113 Murphy Hall.
→ Assistance interpreting your eFan or other Financial Aid documents	→ The UCLA Financial Aid Office at A-129 Murphy Hall (www.fao.ucla.edu) or 310.206.0400.
→ Help with your medical/law school personal statement	→ The Career Center, to learn about their Pre-Professional advising services (www.career.ucla.edu).
→ To find out about scholarships for student research	→ The Undergraduate Research Center in your discipline (either Life/Physical Science or Humanities/Social Science) (www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/ugresearch).
→ To find resources for study abroad	→ The EAP office (http://www.ieo.ucla.edu/eap/). The SRC also offers a number of study abroad resources, including books.
→ To learn about scholarships for AB-540 students	→ The IDEAS student group: ideas@ucla.edu . The SRC also has a file of resources for AB-540 students. The Bruin Resource Center is also an excellent resource (http://www.brc.ucla.edu/).
→ Help with your scholarship essay	→ The Scholarship Resource Center office in 233 Covell Commons. The SRC offers individualized counseling and writing assistance. (scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu) or 310.206.2875
→ To learn about departmental scholarships for students in your major	→ Consult departmental counselors and look at postings on departmental bulletin boards and email listservs. Also, visit the SRC website and find information about UCLA departmental scholarships on the homepage.
→ To get motivated and learn tools for starting your scholarship search	→ A Secrets for Winning College Cash workshop at the SRC. In a quick introductory workshop plus a follow-up counseling session, you'll jump-start your scholarship search and start working on some applications!
→ To know where to send your outside scholarship checks	→ The Financial Aid website (fao.ucla.edu), and make note of the fact that the address is: Payment Solutions & Compliance Office, UCLA, Box 957089, 1125 Murphy Hall, 405 Hilgard Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90095-7089
→ To apply for a national/international scholarship (such as the Rhodes, Marshall, or Mitchell Scholarship)	→ The College Honors office (A311 Murphy Hall) (www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/honors/) → After you've been in touch with College Honors, you can come to the SRC for assistance with your applications.

Q&A

WITH THE SRC

CAN I STILL GET A SCHOLARSHIP FOR THIS YEAR?

The scholarship process has its own timeline, and scholarships aren't an emergency funding source. Generally, you should always search and apply for scholarships the year before you hope to receive the money. Most programs have deadlines in the winter and early spring, which means that by the summer and fall, what we're looking at is next year's cycle. But what that means is that right now is a great time to search for scholarships for next year.

CAN I USE A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

If you're a freshman and you're applying to scholarships that have deadlines in the fall or winter, you can probably get away with using a recommendation from high school. You should read the application materials carefully, however, and make sure that they don't specifically require a letter from a university professor. Once you've been at UCLA for more than a quarter, though, you should make sure to have more recent recommendations. Think of it this way—you want to show committees your current profile, not your high school profile. Also, you don't want them to think that you haven't made any meaningful connections at UCLA. So try to get to know your professors. The SRC provides workshops every quarter on securing letters of recommendation (how to ask for them, what materials to give your recommenders, etc.)—check our workshop listings for the current schedule!

I FEEL LIKE THE MATCHES I GET FROM SCHOLARSHIP DATABASES ARE SO BROAD THAT EVERYONE MUST BE APPLYING FOR THEM AND THERE'S NO WAY I'LL WIN ONE. HOW CAN I FIND SCHOLARSHIPS WHERE I HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING?

First, try to make your search (using the online databases) as specific as possible, so that you can find scholarship listings that are closely tailored to your profile. Think carefully about your interests, hobbies, characteristics, affiliations, and goals. You should also search using other resources—the books in our scholarship library are a good place to start. Additional sources of information include departmental bulletin boards, as well as community and professional organizations. If you define your search terms carefully, you can also find helpful information on internet search engines such as Google and Bing. The key to all of this is investing the time to research scholarship opportunities. Don't get frustrated and give up—be persistent, work hard to find programs that fit your profile, and work hard on your applications. Your efforts can really pay off. The SRC is here to help you with this process.

Take advantage of our free resources:

- ***Library of Scholarship Books***
- ***Facebook and Twitter pages***
- ***Workshops Every Quarter***
- ***Extensive Scholarship Website***
- ***Free Scholarship Databases***
- ***One-on-one Counseling***
- ***Writing Assistance***
- ***Even a Typewriter!***

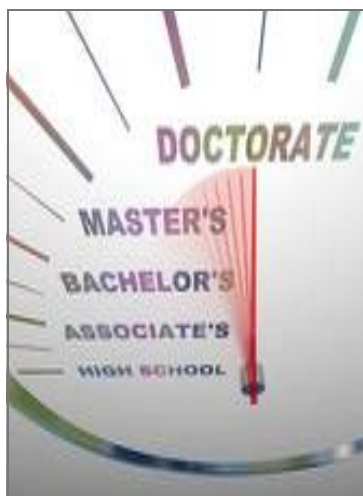
Innovative Funding Sources for Graduate Students

By: Elizabeth Raisanen, SRC Staff

If you've been accepted into a graduate program at UCLA, you may have been offered a funding package by your home department, Graduate Division, or perhaps a combination of the two. While you may have plenty of funding options (such as fellowships and/or teaching and research assistantships) during the early years of your graduate program, you may nevertheless run out of funding if your time to degree is longer than you had initially anticipated. Or, at any point in your program, you might want to have greater flexibility by combining your campus funding with extramural funding. Read on for innovative ideas that will look great on your CV as well as help you to finish your advanced degree with less student loan debt!

Graduate work-study

Many graduate students aren't aware that work-study isn't just for undergraduates! Assuming that you qualify for financial aid (eligibility is determined by the FAFSA), you can use any work-study money that you have been awarded to fund a variety of on- and off-campus positions related to your field of study, including teaching and research assistantships. Visit www.grad.ucla.edu/gss/library/gwspintro.htm for more information and application forms. Pay special attention to application deadlines for summer and academic-year funding, as late applications for work-study will be unsuccessful.



Employment opportunities in other departments or offices on campus

If your home department doesn't offer many options for teaching or research assistantships, don't despair! You may be able to find academic apprenticeships and other employment opportunities in other fields of study on campus, particularly if you speak a language that is taught at UCLA or if you are interested in the research going on in UCLA's many research centers and institutes (www.research.ucla.edu/labs/index.htm). You can also browse the UCLA Faculty Research site (<http://www.research.ucla.edu/>

[faculty/](http://www.research.ucla.edu/)) if you are looking for a faculty member to conduct research with. Some departments list GSR and TA positions on their websites (i.e. GSE&IS: <http://services.gseis.ucla.edu/job-board/student>), and Grad Division also has a site for TA/Reader positions: <http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/ase/index.html>). In addition, Grad Division's Academic Apprentice Personnel Manual (<http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/appm/aapmstudent.pdf>) includes some helpful information on how to find academic appointments on campus. Finally, check in with UCLA's Career Center (on the second floor of the Strathmore Building), which can assist graduate students with locating various job opportunities on and off campus as well as with overall professional development. Sign up for a profile with the Career Center's BruinView website (<https://secure.career.ucla.edu/BruinViewLogin/Login.aspx>) and browse the site's job listings and Opportunity Lists, attend career fairs and workshops for graduate students, and visit the Career Center in person!

Extramural fellowships

Don't limit your funding search to UCLA! Search for portable extramural funding options using the Graduate and Postdoctoral Extramural Support (GRAPES) database (www.grad.ucla.edu/asis/grapes/search.asp). You can also sign up for the Gradfellowships-L email listserv.

Forgivable loans

Even if you end up having to take out loans to fund your graduate education, there are many forgivable loan options for students going into fields like education and healthcare. Check out the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (www.calstate.edu/hr/cdip/) and the National Institutes of Health's Loan Repayment Programs (www.lrp.nih.gov/index.aspx) for two examples of loan forgiveness/repayment programs.

Many thanks to Chérie Francis (Grad Division), Valerie Shepard (Graduate Student Resource Center), and Precious Robinson (Career Center) for their input on this article.

Scholarship Resource Center

Fall 2013 Workshop Schedule

Take advantage of these FREE resources and more!

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

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

Oct 1	Tuesday	5:00-5:30 PM
Oct 9	Wednesday	4:30-5:00 PM
Oct 17	Thursday	4:30-5:00 PM
Oct 21	Monday	5:00-5:30 PM
Oct 25	Friday	5:00-5:30 PM
Oct 29	Tuesday	5:30-6:00 PM
Nov 6	Wednesday	5:00-5:30 PM
Nov 14	Thursday	5:30-6:00 PM
Nov 18	Monday	5:00-5:30 PM

How to Win Scholarships

Oct 2	Wednesday	5:00-5:30 PM
Oct 28	Monday	5:00-5:30 PM
Nov 5	Tuesday	4:30-5:00 PM

How to Find Scholarships

Oct 3	Thursday	5:30-6:00 PM
Oct 22	Tuesday	5:00-5:30 PM

How to Write Personal Statements

Oct 8	Tuesday	4:30-5:30 PM
Oct 16	Wednesday	5:00-6:00 PM

How to Get Letters of Recommendation

Oct 7	Monday	5:00-5:30 PM
Nov 1	Friday	5:00-5:30 PM
Nov 12	Tuesday	5:00-5:30 PM

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