



# UCLA Scholarship Resource Center **STRATEGIES**

WINTER 2016 VOL. 21 NO. 2

## 7 Ways to Become a Scholarship Ninja

*By Rebecca A. Lippman, SRC Staff*

Despite the rising cost of tuition, here at the SRC we take a positive approach to scholarship applications. Our job is to assure you that there are financial resources that students can access through private organizations, UCLA departments, and, quite often, sheer individual will power.

When students, parents, and other members of the UCLA community first discover the Scholarship Resource Center, it's an exciting moment. Our office offers a variety of written materials, workshops, and resources for finding and applying to scholarships. But we also frequently find ourselves engaging in conversations about productive approaches and attitudes.

Inevitably, winning scholarships involves some work. The search and application process requires students to carve out extra time, develop organizational skills and engage in self-reflection. As with any success, the ability to win scholarships comes from a self-driven and student-centered attitude.

The most successful students that we work with actively adjust their expectations, and they approach the scholarship process as a way to develop long-term strategies, routines, and habits. These attitudes transform individuals into "scholarship ninjas"— or

perhaps, more generally, ninjas in life. Here are seven ways to help you become one such ninja:

### **1. PLAY THE LONG GAME**

Even if you're overwhelmed at first, think about the scholarship search as a long-term commitment. Every hour that you set aside to search, write, or seek letters of recommendation will contribute to your knowledge and confidence over time.

### **2. LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU AT UCLA**

Just getting familiar with the kinds of services and counseling appointments that are available on campus will help you navigate them in the future. Spend a day sorting through the websites of various student centers (Career Center, CAPS, SRC, URC, your department) on campus and find out who offers services and/or scholarships.

### **3. BUILD AND UPDATE A PORTFOLIO OF YOUR SCHOLARSHIP MATERIALS**

Even when you're not actively applying for scholarships, habitually update your resume, CV, and a personal narrative of your accomplishments as you progress through school. When the perfect scholarship opportunity reveals itself, you'll already be prepared to articulate yourself as a qualified candidate.

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

***Let us know!***  
[src@college.ucla.ed](mailto:src@college.ucla.ed)

*7 Ways to Become a Scholarship Ninja (cont. from page 1)*

#### 4. KEEP AN ORGANIZED LIST OF DEADLINES

Staying organized allows you to benefit from your previous work. Keep a record of the scholarships you've considered, crossed off of your list, and applied to. Set up a strategy to record deadlines for the year ahead on your calendar.

#### 5. THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

Once you've learned how to manage your time and find scholarships, regularly broaden your search techniques. For example, incorporate your hobbies, community engagement, service work, and course of study as part of your search.

#### 6. APPLY FREQUENTLY

We suggest that you apply to as many scholarships as you can without compromising your studies and your well-being. The more often you apply, the stronger your applications will become.

#### 7. TAKE TIME FOR SELF-REFLECTION

As part of your routine, take time to actively reflect on the relationship between your activities and aspirations. Regularly write down thoughts about your activities and future goals as they evolve. Ask yourself how your work habits have changed and identify the strategies that work best for you.



## Phi Beta Kappa

*By Jeremy Schmidt, SRC Staff*

### Φ *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.” In 2016, 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 (<http://www.college.ucla.edu/pbk/>) and the nationwide organization (<https://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](mailto:pbk@college.ucla.edu).

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

# UDALL SCHOLARSHIPS

*for Students in Environment-Related Fields, American Indian Students, or Alaskan Indian Students*

*By Helga Zambrano, SRC Staff*

**UCLA Campus Deadline: February 1, 2016**

■ **Who is eligible?** There are two types of Udall Scholarships. The first supports undergraduate sophomores or juniors who self-identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native pursuing careers in health care practice/policy, or tribal policy impacting Indian communities. The second scholarship awards undergraduates from any background studying environmental policy and stewardship. The scholarship awards applicants on the basis of academic achievement, public service, community building, and engagement in cultural activities impacting Indian communities.

■ **What are the advantages to winning?**

Scholars are awarded up to \$7,000 and are granted access to the Udall Alumni Network, an association of environmental and tribal leaders as well as public servants for professional advice and job/internship opportunities.

■ **What is the application process?**

You must be nominated to become a candidate for the Udall Scholarships. Please contact the Scholarship Resource Center at 310-206-2875 or email [src@college.ucla.edu](mailto:src@college.ucla.edu) for help getting started. For more information on the scholarship and the application process, please go to: <http://udall.gov/OurProgramsScholarship/HowToApply.aspx>. If nominated, the application will require three recommendation letters, an official transcript, and thoughtful essays. Essay prompts include professional, personal, and academic aspirations in environmental work, health care, or tribal public policy; research experience; community and/or campus leadership; public and community service; and a discussion of policies enacted by Congressman Morris K. Udall or Secretary of Interior Stewart L. Udall that impact your field of study and career goals.

sciences, this scholarship is open to an array of disciplines! You may be an English major who studies American Indian literature or perhaps are working in a lab studying carbon footprints. If your academic interests reflect these issues that are important to Udall, then your major is eligible!

■ **Ready to apply?** Contact the Scholarship Resource Center at 310-206-2875 or email [src@college.ucla.edu](mailto:src@college.ucla.edu) for help getting started on the nomination process. Once you are ready to get to work on your application, the SRC is there to help you brainstorm or proofread through your essays, identify letter recommenders, create a strategic plan, or any other inquiries about the scholarship. We are located at 233 Covell Commons. Our hours are 11-6:00 Monday through Friday. Hope to see you soon!



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

■ **What majors are eligible?** Whether you are in humanities, business, social sciences, or natural/physical

FOR THE **B U S Y****SCHEDULING HACKS***By Nasia Anam, SRC Staff*

So you've done the preliminary legwork of searching through the SRC website, online scholarship databases, and the SRC's extensive library of books and binders, and you've found yourself a number of scholarships for which you'd like to begin applying. First of all, pat yourself on the back for investing the time and effort into the search all while completing coursework and activities at UCLA. Good work! You're taking an important step towards becoming the recipient of a scholarship (or many!) that would not only relieve a portion of the financial burden of a college education, but also lend your resume polish and prestige when you begin your post-UCLA journey. It's an investment in yourself that will yield lucrative returns, but you will need to keep yourself on a regular schedule in order to reap the benefits of your searches. Here are some

helpful tips on managing your application timeline once you've figured out which scholarships to target.

**Hack #1: APPLY EARLY AND OFTEN**

Once you've decided on the scholarships you'd like to target, begin working on the application materials ASAP. It's smart to start before the crush of midterms and term papers. Draft a copy of your personal statement and gather letters of recommendation early on in the quarter. Apply for as many scholarships as you qualify for. The more you apply, the better your odds of winning them!

**Hack #2: PLAN FOR WINTER QUARTER DEADLINES**

The majority of scholarship deadlines fall between January and April, with the bulk due in February and March. Plan your schedule accordingly and be ready for a big push in Winter Quarter to apply. Be very aware of where your midterms and finals fall in relation to scholarship deadlines—you don't want to be completely drained by the time you get to your applications.

**Hack #3: DON'T WASTE TIME REINVENTING THE WHEEL**

Once you've written one personal statement, you can use it as a template for most other scholarships you'll apply for by tailoring a few key elements for each individual application. Applying for multiple scholarships is not as hard as you think! Putting in the hard work for that first scholarship makes the rest smoother sailing.

## 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

UCLA deadline: February 2, 2016

Visit the SRC for more information.



# B R U I N :

## APPS FOR YOUR APPS

By Yvette Martínez-Vu, SRC Staff

Are you feeling overwhelmed at the prospect of applying for scholarships? Those feelings are completely normal. Instead of allowing your feelings to stall your application process, we encourage you to use them as a driving force to start applying. One way to begin this process is by getting organized. There are numerous online tools that can help you stay in control of the scholarship application process.



If you're having trouble tracking deadlines and requirements for scholarships, you may consider using list-making and task management tools such as **Kanbanflow** (<https://kanbanflow.com>) and **Things** (<https://culturedcode.com/things/>). **Kanbanflow** is a project management website that helps you create lists of tasks according to respective projects. This is an excellent tool to get an overview of your anticipated deadlines. **Things** is a task-management tool for creating to-do lists, organizing them according to a project, and syncing them with your calendar.

If setting aside time to work on scholarships concerns you, perhaps try using a time-tracker. Websites and apps like **My Tomatoes** (<http://mytomatoes.com>) and **Eggcelent** (<http://www.eggscellentapp.com>) provide visual timers while other websites like **Rescuetime** (<https://www.rescuetime.com>) track your computer use and help identify your daily habits and distractions.

We recommend that all students embarking on the application process break down tasks into small man-

ageable chunks and to set realistic goals. Perhaps you can adopt the **Pomodoro Technique**, (<http://pomodorotech-nique.com/>), which is a time management method for conducting work. This technique asks that you work in 25-minute increments followed by five-minute breaks. The more you keep track of what you can accomplish in 25-minutes the better you will become at tracking how fast you work.

When working on essays, if you find yourself distracted on social media websites, there are tools to help you focus. Websites such as **Anti-Social** (<https://anti-social.cc>) and **Freedom** (<https://freedom.to>) block distracting websites or block the internet for short increments of time. For instance, you can block certain websites for a 25-minute increment when you can work on an essay, and when the time is up you use the five-minute break to browse said websites.

Let's say you have eliminated distractions and are still having trouble working on scholarship applications, particularly the writing components. Do not worry; there are online tools to help you throughout the process of drafting an essay. You can brainstorm for a scholarship essay using **Personal Brain** (<http://www.thebrain.com>) and begin the writing process using **Write or Die** (<http://writeordie.com>). **Personal Brain** is a mind-mapping tool that helps you visually make connections between thoughts. Write or Die is a web application that motivates you to write by implementing consequences if you stop typing. These consequences include: a box gently reminding you to write, or an unpleasant sound that will stop once you write.

After you identify scholarships to apply for, organize them according to deadlines and make time to work on a draft of the application. Do not forget to schedule an appointment with an advisor at the Scholarship Resource Center so that we can provide you with feedback and edits that will strengthen your application, increasing your chances of winning.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE HUMANITIES

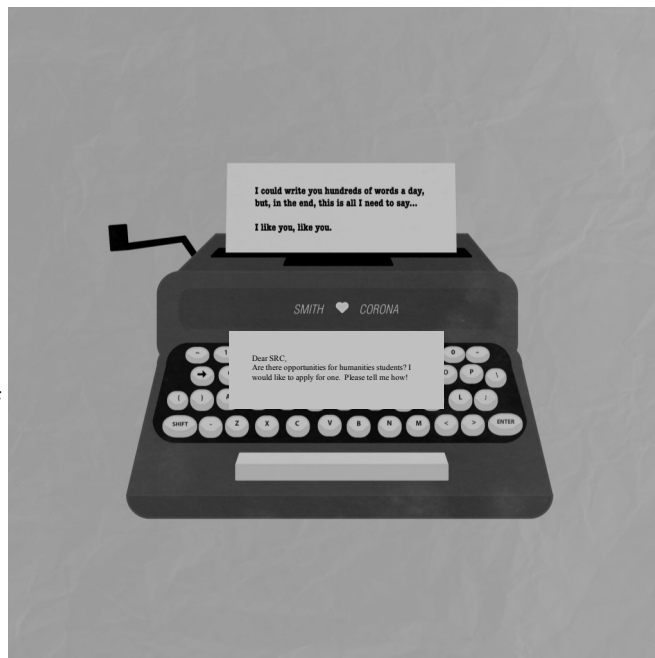
By Aaron Cayer, SRC Staff

The beginning of any new quarter often means scanning through pages of course listings or scrambling to pay another hefty tuition bill. However, you can think about each in a similar way. For example, the same tactics you use to find a diverse set of courses each quarter can help you find a diverse range of scholarships. As you deconstruct your major into tiny course-sized fragments, ask yourself: what is the widest net of skills and academic clusters to which I can stretch my major? For example, students majoring in Design and Media Arts may look for classes in painting, creative writing, literary analysis, or art history to build up a robust portfolio of courses. For every wide net you cast, there are many scholarships that might be good fits for you. Here are some opportunities for students who anchor themselves within the net of humanities:

**The Beinecke Scholarship** is a national program for current Juniors intending to pursue graduate school in the arts, humanities, or social sciences. By considering applications both in terms of academic merit and financial need, the Beinecke program aims to encourage students to think about graduate school as early as possible. In order to apply, you must first be nominated by UCLA, and application materials are due to the SRC January 18. (For more information about the program, see <http://fdnweb.org/beinecke/program/>.)

There are also many private scholarships that provide students in the humanities with opportunities to showcase their creative writing, art, musical, or acting talent. If you are interested in the visual arts, one scholarship to consider is the **L. Ron Hubbard Scholarship**, which tri-annually awards aspiring speculative fiction and fantasy writers or illustrators. It is due on April 10. (For more, see <http://www.writersofthefuture.com/>.)

The **Worldstudio AIGA Scholarship** awards twelve scholarships to students studying art and design-related disciplines, with a particular emphasis on minority groups and students with financial need. It is due on March 27 (<http://www.aiga.org/worldstudio-scholarship/>). The **California Population Awareness (CAPA)** awards students who submit the best videos, audio pieces, or social networking sites that address overpopulation in California. The deadline is January 31. (For more, see <http://www.capsweb.org/>.) Lastly, for musically inclined students, the **John Lennon Scholarship** awards prizes for stellar original compositions, due February 15. (For more, see: <https://bmifoundation.org/>.)



For students who like to write, there are also many essay contests to consider—some of which often require less arduous applications than larger scholarships. One example is the **Helen McCloy Scholarship** for Mystery Writing, awarded annually to two undergraduates students interested in mystery writing, including novels, short stories, scripts, or nonfiction. (For more, see <https://mysterywriters.org/about-mwa/helen-mccloy-scholarship/>.) Another is the **Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship**, which is awarded each year to

five aspiring poets (<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/foundation/prizes/fellowship>).

Be sure to stop by the Scholarship Resource Center to learn more about how to begin the search process and to check out our bulletin boards that have numerous essay contests and scholarship opportunities tailored to different majors. There are many opportunities waiting to be discovered that we can help you search and apply for!

# I REFLECT, THEREFORE I WIN:

## How to Use Reflection Exercises to Win Scholarships

By Hannah Nahm, SRC Staff

The 17<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher Rene Descartes famously stated, “I think, therefore I am.” He was referring to the human consciousness and cognizance to bear proof to our existence. Yes, this sounds too cerebral and convoluted, and you might wonder, “What does this have to do with winning scholarships?” The good news is that you don’t have to be a grand philosopher to use the power of thinking—specifically, reflecting—to help you succeed at winning scholarships.

As the name suggests, reflection is to think back to a past activity. Incorporated into your scholarship application process, then, reflection would involve standing back each time you complete an application and thinking about (i.e., reflecting on) the overall experience. The following are some of the questions you can ask yourself in order to reflect on—and ultimately learn from—your individual scholarship experience:

### ***How did the application go overall?***

How satisfied are you with the application you submitted? How much time did you allow yourself? Were there any unanticipated hurdles?

### ***What was your experience like working on the personal essay?***

Here you can reflect on how much time you gave yourself; how many drafts you were able to produce, and whether you were able to get some writing assistance and from whom.

### ***How did you go about gathering necessary documents (e.g., transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.)?***

Did you encounter any difficulties? If so, what can you do differently to prevent those problems, challenges, or difficult issues in the future?

### ***What insights have you gained overall from the experience, whether about yourself or about any aspects of the scholarship experience?***

### ***What would you do differently for future scholarship applications?*** Are there adjustments that you can make in the future to put together an even stronger application?

### ***If you can give yourself a piece of advice about any insights learned from your scholarship application process, what would it be?***

You can view the scholarship reflection as a kind of “self-survey” to improve on your future application endeavors. To that end, we recommend that you put your reflections down in writing (as opposed to just thinking about the experience), so that in the future you can glance back at your reflection-survey and learn from its wisdom. Remember, the reflection is for you to learn from past endeavors, and to help you strengthen your future scholarship efforts. Bearing this in mind, don’t feel the need to pigeon-hole yourself into any particular format, length, or even language when writing your scholarship reflection. Let it work for you, and if this means writing even just a sentence or two or a phrase or two of reflection, so be it. The key, though, is to do it—reflect!

## 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.

# Scholarship Resource Center Winter 2016 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.*

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!

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

TUES Jan 5 5-5:30 PM

THUR Jan 14 5-5:30 PM

MON Jan 25 4:30-5 PM

WED Feb 10 5-5:30 PM

THUR Feb 18 4:30-5 PM

TUES Feb 23 5-5:30 PM

### How to Win Scholarships

WED Jan 6 5-5:30 PM

FRI Feb 5 5-5:30 PM

### How to Find Scholarships

WED Jan 13 5-5:30 PM

THUR Feb 4 5:30-6 PM

### How to Write Personal Statements

WED Jan 20 5-6 PM

TUES Feb 2 5-6 PM

### How to Get Letters of Recommendation

THUR Jan 28 4:30-5 PM

WED Feb 17 5-5:30 PM

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

## SCHOLARSHIP EVENT WITH ORL

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 14, 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Grand Horizon Room in Covell

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

*\* bring a friend and your laptop!*



