

High School Juniors

Junior year is the time to start organizing yourself for scholarship season. While there are many scholarships to which you can apply this year, more importantly, you want to set up a timeline for senior year when the maximum number of scholarships will be available to you. Furthermore, it is imperative to understand the application process and deadlines for college merit scholarships. The summer between junior and senior year is a stress-free time to write your scholarship essays, so early preparation is key. Here's how to get started:

National/Regional/Local Scholarships

Create a spreadsheet with columns as follows:

- Name of scholarship
- Deadline
- Award amount
- Notes for any special circumstances (i.e. the scholarship only takes the first 100 applications)

Now start your internet search. There are thousands of scholarships and many unique opportunities. Popular topics to search:

- Do your parents' employers offer scholarships for the children of employees?
- Does your job offer scholarships for employees?
- Are your parents or grandparents veterans?
- What is your planned major? For instance, search "scholarships for business major" or "scholarships for computer science major"
- Do you participate in sports? There are several general sports scholarships (Foot Locker and BigSun, for instance), but there are also very specific sports scholarships – women golfers, martial arts, equestrian, and even one for students who have run in a race
- Volunteerism scholarships
- Social justice scholarships
- Leadership scholarships
- Essay scholarships – for the student who loves to write
- Scholarships that are specific to you – do you like to BBQ? Do you love pets? Do you love history and reading the classics? Do you plan to make your prom dress or suit out of duct tape? There are scholarships for each of these interests.

College Scholarships

Create another tab in your spreadsheet with columns as follows:

- College name
- Merit scholarship name
- Deadline
- Amount
- Basis for selection (are you automatically considered when you apply or is there a separate application?)

Not only will this information help you stay on track for applying to college merit scholarships, but it will also make you aware of how much funding you are likely to receive to help pay for your education.

Here is a handy spreadsheet for you to use as you start your search:

[Simple Scholarship Spreadsheet](#)

[Detailed Scholarship Spreadsheet](#)

Now start your google search. There are thousands of scholarships and many unique opportunities.

If the search process seems overwhelming, please consider partnering with Laura George Consulting. Our Scholarship Search and Guidance Package includes an extensive search for scholarships specifically curated for you. Contact us for more information!