

SIPI FAO Scholarship Search Tips

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIPS

1. Always be on the look-out for scholarships. Scholarships are offered by your tribal higher education office, community organizations, banks, academic departments, so cast your net far and wide. The SIPI financial aid office posts current scholarships on a bulletin board located in the FAO computer lab.
2. BEWARE OF SCAMS! Never pay (or give credit card info) to apply for scholarships or pay for a scholarship service. When in doubt, throw it out.
3. Scholarships can be found year around, however the majority of scholarship deadlines are January – May.
4. Be aware of deadlines. Does the scholarship have a “received by” or “postmarked by” deadline?
5. Apply, apply, and apply! Most students do not get every scholarship they apply to, so increase your odds by applying to as many as possible.
6. General requirements for most scholarships ask that a student have a minimum 2.5-3.0 cumulative GPA. Keep grades up and be sure to review eligibility requirements on each scholarship application.
7. Be sure to proof-read your personal statements. If time permits, have an instructor/mentor review essays.
8. Give recommenders 2 weeks to write a recommendation after they accept. Try to provide a copy of application, info on scholarship, your resume and a pre-paid, addressed envelope to each recommender.
9. Present yourself in a professional manner by cleaning up your email address, taking a smiling photo that’s not self photographed, and review your social media presence.

THE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Looking for scholarships is like looking for a job, there are countless places to look. To get you started, take a look at the following websites:

Free Scholarship matching services

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.org

Notable Scholarship Blogs:

www.jlvcollegecounseling.com

AMERICAN INDIAN SCHOLARSHIP LINKS

Bureau of Indian Education Scholarship Links
<https://www.bie.edu/ParentsStudents/Grants/>

American Indian College Fund
www.collegefund.org

American Indian Student Services
www.americanindiainservices.org

American Indian Graduate Center – Undergraduate Sch.
www.aigcs.org

American Indian Education Fund (formerly American Indian Education Foundation)
http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=aief_services_scholarships_undergrad

Association of American Indian Affairs
<https://www.indian-affairs.org/scholarships.html>

Indian Health Services
<https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/>

American Indian Science and Engineering Society
<http://www.aises.org/scholarships>

Daughters of the American Revolution
<https://www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships/american-indian>

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP LINKS

Albuquerque Community Foundation Scholarship-
<http://www.albuquerquefoundation.org/student-aid.aspx>

Udall Scholarship-
<https://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/Scholarship/Scholarship.aspx>

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation-www.jkcf.org

Society for American Archaeology-
<http://saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Awards/SAANativeAmericanScholarships/tabid/163/Default.aspx>

5 STEPS TO FEDERAL & STATE AID



I. FAFSA

Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on-line, over the phone, or by paper application. SIPI's school code is 011185.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

1-800-4-FED AID

2. STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR)

Look out for your Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U.S. Department of Education. If you included your email on the FAFSA, you will receive your SAR electronically. Review the SAR for any mistakes and/or updates. Make corrections via the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov, if necessary.

3. FOLLOW-UP

Follow-up with the SIPI Financial Aid Office on required supporting documentation.

All SIPI students need to submit the following:

- o Current Class Schedule
- o Transcripts from previous colleges must be submitted to the financial aid office and must be reviewed for transferability by your academic advisor
- o *Verification forms (if selected for verification), which includes Tax Transcripts*

4. AWARD LETTER

Once all supporting documentation has been submitted and verified by the financial aid staff, then an award letter will be generated. All students must sign their award letters.

5. CHECKS

The PELL, NM & Federal supplemental check disbursement schedule will be posted in the financial aid office. PELL, NM & Federal supplemental checks are usually distributed before midterms. In order to pick up a check students must present their signed award letter and ID.

Financial aid forms can be found on the SIPI financial aid web page located at

<https://www.sipi.edu/apps/pages/financialaid>.

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