

SCHOLARSHIPS 101



 **UCanGo2TM.org**

Scholarships

Scholarships are free money students use to help pay college expenses.

Scholarships are available to students of all ages.

High school students should apply for 2-3 scholarships every week.



Get Organized

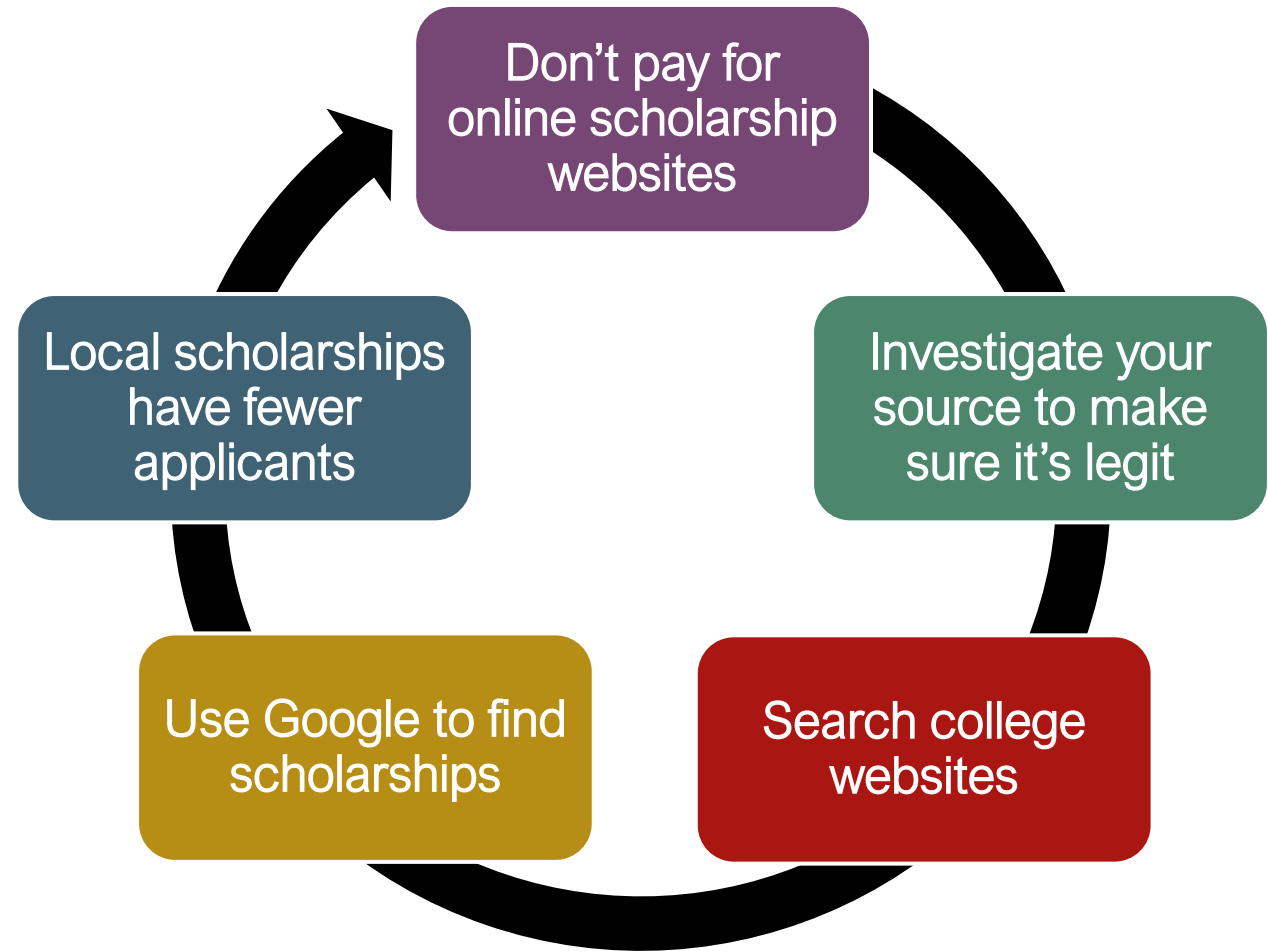
Plan and prepare for
scholarships early.

The busiest time for
scholarship deadlines is
Feb. 1 – April 30.

Don't rush when completing
applications. Be thorough!



Search for Scholarships



Scholarships Are Based On



Ethnicity



Sports



Community
Service



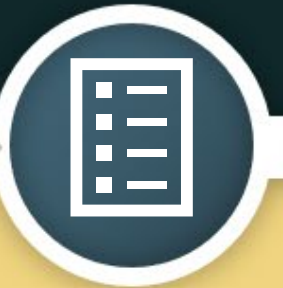
Grades



Hobbies



Test Scores



Scholarships Are Based On



Residency



Financial Need



Skills



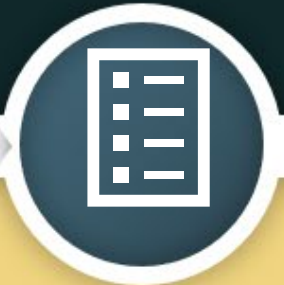
Essay



Leadership



College Major



Search for Scholarships

UCanGo2.org

OKcollegestart.org

OCCF.org

FastWeb.com

Scholarships.com

Scholarships360.org

BigFuture.collegeboard.org

Cappex.com

College-Scholarships.com

Chegg.com/scholarships

StudentScholarshipSearch.com

CollegeXpress.com

SallieMae.com

Study.com

Unigo.com

GoingMerry.com

ScholarshipOwl.com

Bold.org

MyScholly.com

CareerOneStop.org

Petersons.com



Don't Rush

Read all
instructions carefully

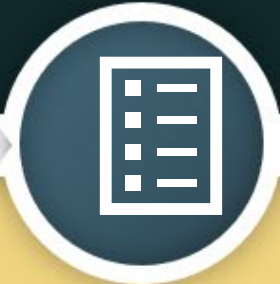
Answer each
question completely

Write a great
essay

Review with your
teacher, parent
or friend

Ask for
recommendation
letters early

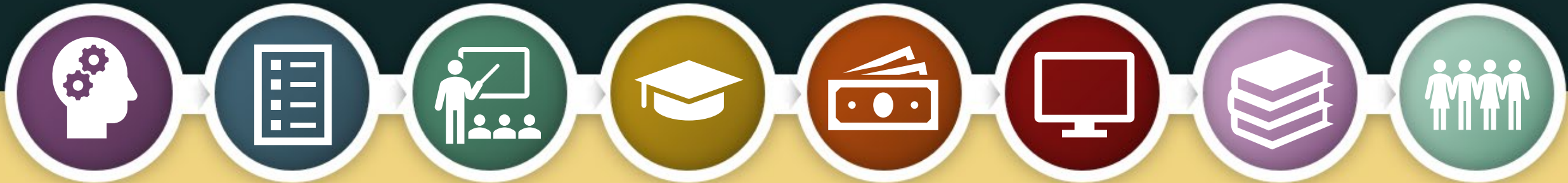
Proofread!
Proofread!
Proofread!



Writing Essays

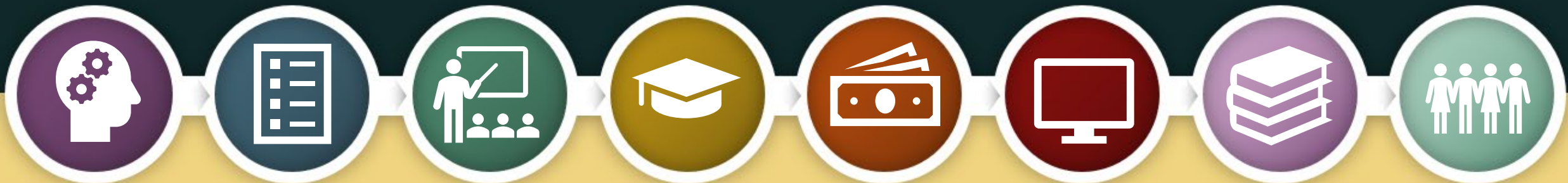
A good scholarship essay ...

- Captivates readers
- Is original
- Has a main point
- Makes you dazzle
- Is honest
- Sets you apart
- Has no grammatical or spelling errors



Recommendation letters are needed for many scholarships.

Consider these tips when making your request.



Watch Deadlines

Many
scholarships
have early
deadline dates

Keep track of
requirements
for each
scholarship

Don't wait
until the last
minute

Apply
early



Don't Forget

Apply for
scholarships
every year

Complete your
FAFSA annually
at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov)

Write a great
essay you can
use for multiple
applications

Send all
required
documents with
your scholarship
application

Don't miss your
scholarship
deadline



UCanGo2.org

- Scholarship Database
- Scholarships by Deadline
- Scholarships by Category
- Scholarship Essay Tips
- Scholarship Success Guide
- Scholarship Tracker
- Scholarships 101 PowerPoint

The screenshot displays the UCanGo2.org website. At the top, the logo features a graduation cap and the text 'UCanGo2' with the tagline 'WITHIN REACH... WITHIN YOU'. Navigation links include Home, Educators, Publications & Tools, Scholarships, News & Events, Contact Us, and Find Us on Facebook. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Scholarship Resources:** Includes links for Scholarship Essay Tips, Scholarship Success Guide, Scholarship Tracker, and Scholarships 101 PPT. Below this is a 'SCHOLARSHIPS 101' graphic with icons for various resources.
- Scholarships by Deadline:** A vertical list of months from January to Ongoing.
- Scholarships by Category:** A list of categories including Adult Learners, The Arts, Ethnicity, Health, LGBTQ+, Middle School, Military, Miscellaneous, STEM, Special Needs, Study Abroad, and Unique Scholarships.
- Scholarships:** A section titled 'The nature of our work with students, parents and educators leads us to an abundance of scholarship resources. Use our *Scholarship Success Guide* and other valuable resources linked on the left for help with finding, preparing and tracking scholarship applications. Keep in mind all scholarship information listed is subject to change.' It includes a 'SCHOLARSHIPS' graphic and a 'SHARE YOUR STORY' section for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship.
- Scholarship of the Week:** Features the 'Avacare Medical Scholarship' with details on the award amount (\$1,000), deadline (Dec. 15, 2023), and a link to learn more.
- FAFSA:** A banner for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), stating that the 2024-2025 FAFSA will be available by December 31 at FAFSA.gov, with the website startwithfafsa.org.



Scholarship Essay Tips

The scholarship essay is a chance for you to shine and to set yourself apart from other scholarship applicants. Writing a good essay is key to winning a scholarship so use these tips to help you move to the top of the list.

Scholarship essays are used by providers to:

- Find students who meet certain criteria.
- Get to know you as a student and person.
- Make sure your experience and interests coincide with the organization's mission.

Keep these tips in mind when writing your scholarship essay:

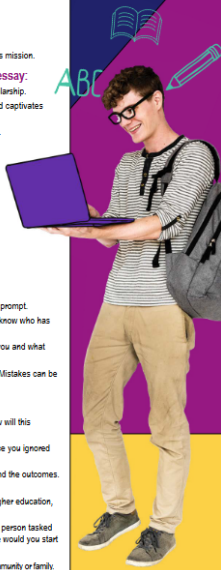
- Take writing your essay seriously, remember it's key to earning the scholarship.
- Make sure your essay is honest, original, conveys your personality and captivates the reader.
- Be organized, meet all requirements, and don't rush through your essay.
- Be prepared to answer the scholarship question (sometimes called a prompt) on a variety of topics, which might include:
 - Future academic or life plans
 - Personal history
 - Current events or social issues
 - Achievements

Writing Tips:

- Read the directions carefully before you start.
- Be aware of deadlines.
- Brainstorm ideas and create an outline.
- Write a rough draft, a second draft and then a final copy.
- Start over if you finish and your work doesn't seem to fit the scholarship prompt.
- If needed, ask for help from your counselor, a teacher, or someone you know who has received a scholarship that required an essay.
- Use personal and real stories. The scholarship provider wants to know you and what makes you unique.
- Use spell check, proofread and be mindful of vocabulary and grammar. Mistakes can be costly. Make use of online grammar and writing tools.

Sample Essay Questions or Prompts:

- Describe an experience that changed your life. What did you learn? How will this experience influence you moving forward?
- Advice is sometimes easier to give than to follow. Share a piece of advice you ignored and why you should have followed it.
- Describe an innovative project you designed, the goal of the project, and the outcomes. Be prepared to provide supporting documentation.
- Write a letter explaining your need for this scholarship, your plans for higher education, and your future career goals.
- Climate change is impacting the world in dramatic ways. If you were the person tasked to find a solution to protect both the public and private sectors, where would you start and what would you recommend?
- Describe a moment that illustrates your shift from child to adult within your community or family.



Starting the scholarship application process with a successful start in place is key. Knowing how to **PLAN**, **RESEARCH**, and **TRACK** applications will increase your chances of earning valuable awards. UCanGo2.org offers resources and publications to help you plan, prepare and pay for your education after high school.

PLAN

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, in your senior year of high school and each year you need financial aid for education expenses. Learn more at FAFSA.gov.
- Investigate the cost of attendance at the school you plan to attend, and determine how much you'll need to cover your expenses. OkCollegestart.org can help you find the cost of higher education institutions nationwide.
- Evaluate your resources to determine how much you'll pay for college. Consider savings, your current earnings, financial aid and any scholarships you may have already won.
- Create a resume that lists your talents, accomplishments, and awards and provide it to those you ask to write letters of recommendation.

RESEARCH

- Scholarships are awarded based on a number of factors, including family ethnicity, sports, community service, grades, hobbies, test scores, residency, financial need, skills, leadership, essays, college majors and more.
- Search for scholarships from your prospective colleges, tribal entities, employers, local organizations, Google, books and more.
- Ask your school counselor for scholarship resources.
- Use legitimate scholarship search sites like those found on the next page and at UCanGo2.org and OkCollegestart.org.
- Align your search to your characteristics and your college and career goals.

APPLY

- Read through the application and any requirements for transcripts, essays, and letters of recommendation. Be sure to request/complete these items early.
- Follow instructions, review and proof your application so you're sure there are no mistakes. Ask someone else to proof it, too.
- Write an essay that's captivating, sets you apart, and is original. Take time to proofread and ask a teacher or counselor to proofread it, as well. Consider the guidance available in our [Scholarship Essay Tips](#) publication.
- Keep copies of your applications, essays, and letters of recommendation. You'll use the same personal information on most applications, so copies will come in handy. Revising an essay you've already used is a good way to save time and improve upon what you've already created.
- Watch out for scholarship scams! Read the fine print, beware of guarantees, never pay to submit an application and protect your personal information. Learn more about scams at fic.gov/scholarshipscams.

TRACK

- Make note of all requirements to ensure you're applying for scholarships for which you're eligible.
- Send thank you notes to those who participated in your application process and to the scholarship providers, if you win the award.
- Use a [Scholarship Tracking Sheet](#) to organize and keep track of completed applications and upcoming deadlines.
- Understand how a scholarship may impact other financial aid you will be awarded. Check with the college financial aid office if you have questions.

UCanGo2.org
OKcollegestart.org
OCCF.org
BigFuture.collegeboard.org
Bold.org
Cappex.com
CareerOneStop.org
College-Scholarships.com
CollegeXpress.com
FastWeb.com
GoingMerry.com
MyScholly.com
Petersons.com
SallieMae.com
ScholarshipOwl.com
Scholarships.com
Scholarships360.org
StudentScholarshipSearch.com
Study.com
Unigo.com

AScribe.com (Absentee Shawnee)
 Bahjhoje.com (Iowa)
 CheyenneandArapaho-ran.gov
 Cherokee.org
 Chickasaw.net
 ChoctawNation.com
 ComancheNation.com
 DelawareTribes.org
 KawaNation.com
 KickapooTribesOfOklahoma.com
 MiamiNation.com
 MuscogeeNation.com (Muscogee/Creek)
 MyCaddoNation.com
 OsageNation-ran.gov
 PawneeNation.org
 PeoriaTribes.com
 Ponca-ran.gov
 Potawatomi.org
 QuapawTribes.com
 SacandFoxNation-ran.gov
 SCtribes.com (Seneca-Cayuga)
 Shawnee-ran.gov
 Sno-ran.gov (Seminole)
 WichitaTribes.com
 Wyandotte-Nation.org



Visit UCanGo2.org and OKcollegestart.org to find scholarships and to learn about scholarship success.

Find us on 


Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/UCanGo2](https://www.facebook.com/UCanGo2) and [facebook.com/OKcollegestart](https://www.facebook.com/OKcollegestart) to stay up-to-date on scholarship opportunities.

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U Can Go 2 By




Unique Scholarships

UNIGO SCHOLARSHIPS
unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/


Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: January 31


I HAVE A DREAM SCHOLARSHIP



It's crazy to think of all the amazing stories that happen as soon as we close our eyes and drift to sleep. It could be in a deep slumber or perhaps in a carefree daze, but our dreams can help shape our ideas, perceptions, and - now - education.

Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: February 28


SWEET AND SIMPLE SCHOLARSHIP



And now, those simple gifts can really pay off in our Sweet and Simple Scholarship! Think back to a time when you received a special gift that seemed so unassuming yet made such a strong impact in your life. Was it a present you could open in a box or a humble gesture from a stranger?

Amount: \$2,500
Deadline: March 31


SUPERPOWER SCHOLARSHIP



Have you ever wondered where you'd go if you could fly around downtown? Or maybe you daydream of secretly taking over the world - to each his own. For all of those hero lovers and villain enthusiasts, this super scholarship can give you the power to win free college money.

Amount: \$3,000
Deadline: April 30


ALL ABOUT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



It's often been said that "education is the key to success." What doors could your educational "key" open? It's not cheap to get a college degree, and many college-bound students see a shut door for education. We're here to help open it again.

Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: May 31

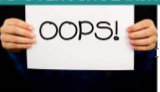
FIFTH MONTH SCHOLARSHIP



One is the loneliest number. Three is a crowd. Then there is five. What's so special about five? Well, for starters, this lucky number could help you win a \$1,500 scholarship.

Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: June 30


DO-OVER SCHOLARSHIP



Mistakes - we've all made them. Too bad life doesn't always give you a mulligan. Or does it? What if you had the chance to "do-over" a moment in your life? What would it be? How would it affect you and your future?

Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: July 31


FLAVOR OF THE MONTH SCHOLARSHIP



Summer and ice cream go hand-in-hand. In fact, July is National Ice Cream Month, and that's the inspiration behind this award. We think people are very similar to ice cream; some are nutty, others a little exotic, while some are very comforting. If you were an ice cream flavor, which would you be and why?

Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: August 31


MAKE ME LAUGH SCHOLARSHIP



Scholarships can be fun! Take a break from the boring application routine and make us laugh. That's right; we want a real LOL moment. Make Me Laugh is a fun scholarship that lets you cut loose and lighten things up. Looking for a scholarship for comedians? Now is your chance to show us your funny bone. Perhaps you always have an embarrassing - but funny - story to share. Great! We'll promise to laugh with you, not at you.

Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: September 30


SHOUT IT OUT SCHOLARSHIP



Have something on your mind? Let it out, or better yet SHOUT it out. Give your thoughts a voice and earn free college money at the same time. Our Shout It Out Scholarship committee wants to know what you have to say. Whether it's a message for the world or just a quick "hi mom," this is your opportunity to speak up and win money for college. We're listening!

Amount: \$2,000
Deadline: October 31

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE SCHOLARSHIP



Did binge-re-watching "The Walking Dead" get you thinking about what you'd do if the streets were filled with flesh-eating zombies? Maybe you've envisioned your own post-apocalyptic world overrun with the living dead, forcing you to come up with a zombie survival plan - and quick!

Amount: \$5,000
Deadline: November 30

EDUCATION MATTERS SCHOLARSHIP



As a scholarship seeker, you're probably already well-aware of the importance of an education. But, what about the naysayers? Have you come across someone who's tried to talk you out of college, saying that it's not worth it?

Amount: \$1,500
Deadline: December 31

TOP TEN LIST SCHOLARSHIP



There are many scholarships and colleges that want to know the number one thing you want people to know about you. Just one? That's it? "But, I'm amazing," you say. We hear you, and we know that it's tough to narrow down your awesomeness into one measly reason.

Applicants must:

- write a 250-word essay on the monthly topic
- be fourteen (14) years of age at the time of application
- be a legal citizen of the U.S. or the District of Columbia

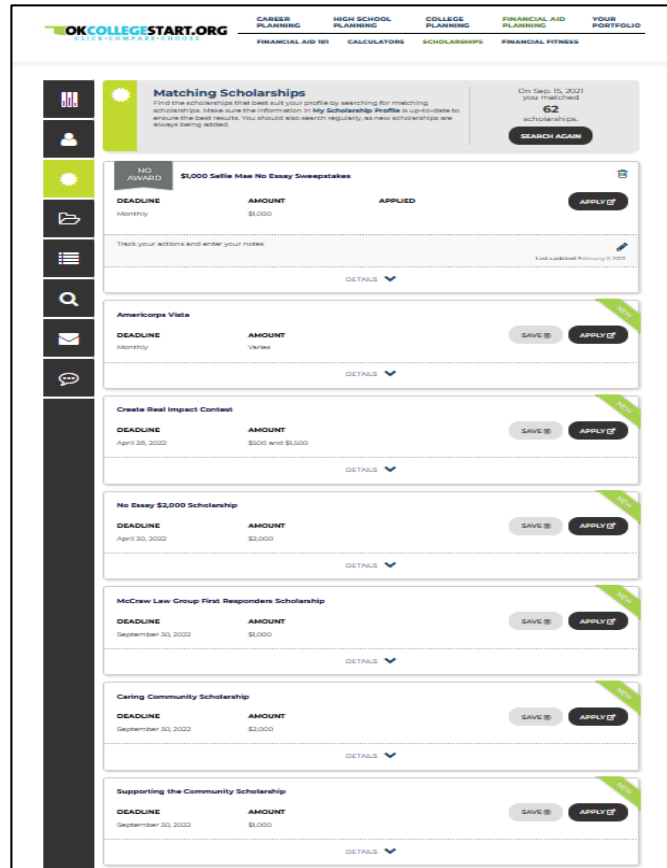
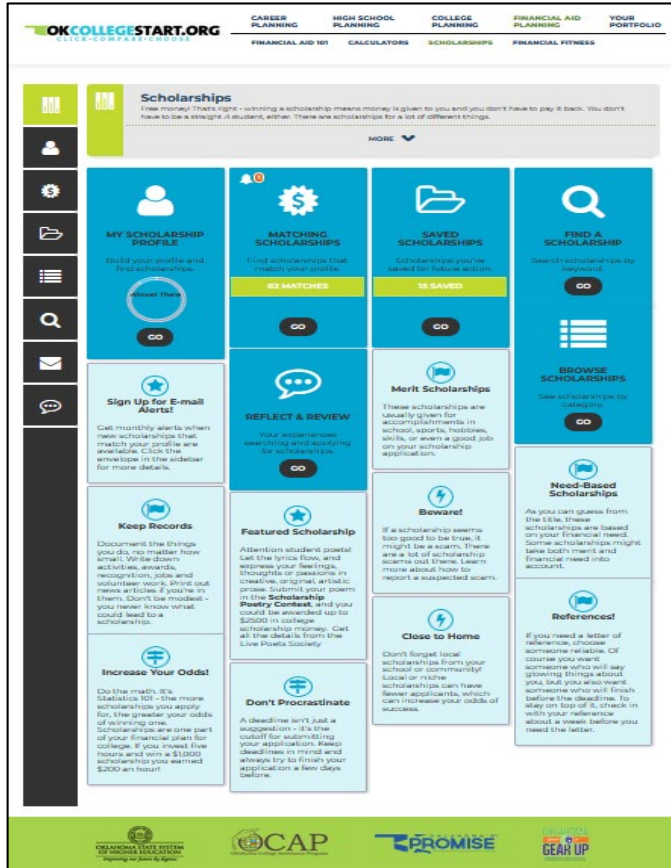
UCanGo2!
WITHIN REACH... WITHIN YOU

Applicants must:

- Write a 250 word essay on the monthly topic
- Be 14 years of age, or older, at the time of application
- Be a legal citizen of the U.S. or D.C.



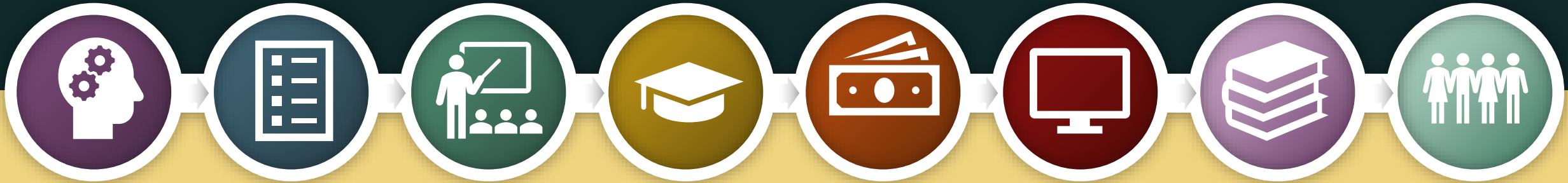
OKcollegestart.org



- Scholarship Search
- Find matching scholarships
- Sign up for new scholarship alerts
- Save scholarships
- Apply for Oklahoma's Promise scholarship



CONTACT



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