There are many scholarship resources available to UCLA students. To ensure success, make sure that your scholarship search is broad and includes outside scholarships in addition to UCLA scholarships. Remember to continue to seek out scholarship opportunities throughout the duration of your academic career.

UCLA Scholarships for New Students

Apply for UCLA Scholarships via Admission Application – Applicants to UCLA apply for scholarships awarded by UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships on their admissions application. Scholarships are awarded in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, based on data submitted on the admissions application and are specifically designed to assist students who demonstrate financial need. Students must file a financial aid application (FAFSA or Dream Act) by March 2 in order to be considered for scholarships administered by UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships.

UCLA Scholarships for Continuing Students

Apply for scholarships available through UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships – Scholarships awarded to continuing undergraduate students require that you complete an annual scholarship application that is available on our website (www.financialaid.ucla.edu) in January. In order to qualify:

- students must have a minimum 3.2 GPA
- must submit a FAFSA or Dream Act application by March 2, which demonstrates financial need
- must complete an on-line “Scholarship Application for Continuing UCLA Students” by March 2

How Do I Apply for Scholarships?

Apply for Scholarships through Scholarship Resource Center – Once students accept their offer of admission, they can apply for additional UCLA scholarships for new students through the UCLA Scholarship Resource Center at www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu. These scholarships are need-based so will require that a financial aid application (FAFSA or Dream Act) be filed. Scholarship deadlines will vary.

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GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS for Undergraduate Students
Many other scholarships are available for undergraduate students with family income up to $150,000 who attend the University of California. In order to be considered, students must be California residents or qualify for AB540 status and maintain a 2.0 GPA. To apply, you must complete your FAFSA (www.fafsa.gov) or Dream Act application (www.csac.ca.gov/dream_act.asp) by March 2 and make sure that your GPA Verification is on file with the California Student Aid Commission.

California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) offers many ways to help you find national and local scholarships. CSAC offers the following services:

- Provide extensive scholarship information and refers students as needed to other UCLA offices, departments, groups, and programs that administer scholarships.
- Conduct scholarship searches for students tailored to individual students.
- Hand out scholarship lists that are perfectly matched to your interests, hobbies, ethnic or religious background, work experience, career goals, etc.
- Proofread scholarship applications.
- Offer workshops on different aspects of the private scholarship process.
- Write essays on your own behalf.
- Counsel students through the scholarship process.
- Help locate private sources of scholarship funding.
- Provide emergency or immediate funding.

Many scholarships are based on criteria other than financial need and academic achievement. Take note of your interests, hobbies, ethnic or religious background, work experience, career goals, etc. There may be specific scholarships related to these.

Try to plan ahead when applying for scholarships. It is recommended you apply six to nine months before the academic year you hope to receive the funding.

Outside agency scholarships (from foundations, organizations, groups, and individuals) can be an excellent way to help fund your education.

There’s no single, comprehensive source that can give you a list of all the scholarships, for which you may be eligible. It’s best to consult several sources, such as scholarship books, the internet, departments, your high school and community organizations, etc.

Internet search engines provide a wealth of information for scholarship opportunities.

Tips for searching for outside scholarships:

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Getting a strong letter of recommendation is a vital component of many scholarship applications.

Scholarship books that target specific majors, ethnicity, or religious affiliation are an invaluable way to find national and local scholarships.

Writing an excellent personal statement will help you stand out as a strong candidate for scholarship. The Scholarship Resource Center offers workshops for UCLA students as well as individualized writing support sessions to help you work on essays from brainstorming to proofreading.

Many departments at UCLA offer scholarships. Watch for listings on bulletin boards, ask departmental counselors, and check your department’s website listings.

Most importantly, be proactive and diligent in applying for scholarships. It takes a lot of work, but in the end all your efforts will really pay off.

How will a scholarship affect my financial aid?

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will adjust your financial aid award to incorporate scholarships. Typically, scholarships will be used to replace federal work study and/or need based student loans. This will result in reducing your loan indebtedness at graduation. It is very important that you notify the financial aid office if you will be receiving scholarship support so that changes to your financial aid eligibility can be made without delay.