

Scholarship Basics

Damonte Ranch High School
Counseling Office

Michelle Aikin

maikin@washoeschools.net

Scholarship Quiz

1. Students receive scholarships based only on academic achievements.

False

2. Some scholarships are worth paying money to apply for.

False

3. If I apply for financial aid, it will reduce my chances of receiving a scholarship.

False

4. If I have the Millennium scholarship, there is no need to apply for other scholarships.

False

Workshop Goals:

- ✓ To gain a greater understanding of the scholarship application process.
- ✓ To understand when a scholarship is right for you and you are right for it.
- ✓ To avoid the pitfalls and traps associated with applying for scholarships.
- ✓ To successfully apply for and receive scholarship funds.

What do you need to begin your search for scholarships?

- Access to a computer

- A little planning

- A lot of research

- A lot of common sense

But it sounds like a lot of work...

One way to think about the time spent researching scholarship opportunities is to consider you are getting paid for this research.

If you spend ten hours finding and applying for a scholarship and you receive a \$500 dollar award, you just made \$50 an hour!

Even if you don't get awarded a scholarship, you will have refined your research and writing skills and will be more likely to succeed in similar future endeavors.

Once you have completed one application, you can often "recycle" your essays, probably the most time-consuming part of the process.

You can save yourself additional time by asking your references if you can use their letters of recommendation for multiple scholarships.

Where do scholarships come from?

Colleges & Universities

Public and Private

Public & Private Sources

Corporate, Charitable, Personal

Federal Government

State Government

Where can I go to find out about scholarships?

DRHS College and Career Center

- Check out the DRHS scholarship board:
<https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/6339>

- Local library

- Religious organizations

- Professional organizations

and...

...the internet!



The **DRHS Scholarship Application** and online scholarship board can each be located at:
<https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/6339>



There are numerous search engines to choose from. A few are listed below:



www.fastweb.com



www.cappex.com



www.scholarships.com



Make sure they are free!

How do I know if I am eligible?

- Read the application!

Must you attend a particular school (or type of school) to receive the scholarship?

Is there a GPA requirement?

Is there a class level requirement (junior, senior, etc.)?

Is the scholarship based on your anticipated college major/area of academic emphasis?

How do I know if I am eligible? (cont'd)

More questions to ask yourself...

- Must you (or your parent) be a member of a particular organization or working in a particular field to apply?
- Is there a need requirement based on your (or your parents') tax return?
- Is completing the FAFSA a requirement?
- Is the scholarship targeted to students with a particular background?

Some Possible Background Requirements:

- Ethnicity/nationality
- Family status
- First-generation college students
- Gender
- High school attended
- Non-native English speakers
- Religious affiliation
- Students with disabilities
- Volunteer history

MILLENNIUM Scholarship

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO QUALIFY IN HIGH SCHOOL?

Students in Graduating Classes of 2016 & later* will be eligible when all of the following conditions are met:

FIRST

You must graduate with a diploma from a Nevada public or private high school**



GPA

You must finish high school with an overall 3.25 GPA for all coursework.

EXAM

If you are part of the Class of 2016 or earlier, you must pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Exams.



*Will be removed but required until the Class of 2017.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Starting with the Class of 2016, you may also qualify based on a sufficient SAT or ACT test score. Please visit NVGGMS.gov for more information.

RESIDENCE

You must have been a resident of Nevada for at least two of your high school years.



Finally, you must have completed the minimum core curriculum requirements:

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES	UNITS
English	4
Math (including Algebra II <u>or higher</u>)	4
Natural Science	3
Social Science and History	3
TOTAL	14

All requirements for the scholarship are outlined in both *Nevada Revised Statutes* Chapter 396 and the NSHE Board of Regents *Handbook and Procedures and Guidelines*. Access to these documents can be found on-line at NVGGMS.gov.

*This information is subject to any changes in State law, policies adopted by the NSHE Board of Regents, availability of funding, and any related matters thereto.

**Please contact the Millennium Scholarship office regarding the eligibility criteria for students who did not graduate from a Nevada public or private high school

DRHS Common Scholarship Components:

DRHS In House Scholarship application.

<https://www.washoeschools.net/drhscareercenter>

First scholarship off the scholarship tab:

Damonte Ranch High School Scholarship Application

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-mlhkrWBffXWrCaGcuqEaBvoZw5Et4-saLRXH-u2MAVV72A/viewform>

PLEASE NOTE: BEFORE THIS APPLICATION IS CONSIDERED COMPLETE, YOU MUST ALSO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

A resume showing extracurricular, volunteer, and work experience (**Educational Resume**)

A 500 word essay "**What Drives You?**" We all have had an experience, whether significant or not, that defines who we are, something that teaches us about ourselves. It is this experience that motivates us to success. It is this experience that drives us. Write a candid essay telling us about that experience and how it drives you. The essay should use imagery from your experience while giving us a glimpse of your character in a positive way.

***Please be aware that any money awarded to a student by the committee must be used within the subsequent academic year at the institution of their choice.*

The money is sent directly to that institution.

The **ABSOLUTE DEADLINE** for returning the application is Friday, January 18th 3 p.m. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

***Incomplete applications will not be considered by the committee.*

No matter which scholarship you apply for...

- Read the application instructions carefully. If you have questions, contact the funding agency.
- **NOTE DEADLINE!!!**
- Before filling out any paper application forms, make extra copies in case you make mistakes.
- Proofread your application and have at least two other people review your essays.
- Make a copy of the completed forms before mailing them.
- Consider sending your documents through certified mail or with a return receipt.

**When
writing
your
essays,
ask
yourself
these
questions:**

Who am I?

What will it (or did it)
take for me to get to
college?

Where do I want to go?

When do I want to get
there?

What is important to
me?

Remember...

- Scholarship essays are your chance to shine.
- You should use them to “tell your story” to the committee.
- Think of your essays as taking the place of a personal interview.
- The better job you do, the better the reader gets to know you, and the better chance you have of being awarded a scholarship!

Essay Tips

- Demonstrate you are putting some effort into the application-write more than one or two lines.
- You may choose to type and submit your application online, but a scholarship application is not a chat room! Use proper capitalization and spelling.
- Check your grammar!
- Even if you have the option of printing your application by hand, typing is generally favored by selection committees.

Essay Tips (cont'd)

- Be positive--if asked to explain what separates you from other applicants, build yourself up without saying anything negative about other applicants.
- Express the excitement you feel about your future.
- Give yourself some time to think about your essays. If you are submitting online, print off a copy of the application in advance so you can work on the essays ahead of time. (Cutting and pasting works great!)

STRUCTURE OF A SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Opener

Does it grab my attention?



Apply to you?

How does it impact you?



Apply to your future?

How does this experience effect your future?

SCHOLARSHIP DO'S AND DON'TS

Do apply, apply, apply--and often!

Do give them what they want, when they want it and how they want it.

Do keep hard copies and save what you can on a computer disk.

Don't think that it's not worth the effort to apply for a scholarship.

Don't submit the application or transcripts late--be aware of all deadlines.

ONE LAST RECOMMENDATION

Don't ever waste your money on scholarship search services that promise to help you tap into vast amounts of unclaimed financial aid funds. There are many web sites that provide the same information for **free**....