

SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

Step 1: Know Your Unique Story

- Cultural heritage and background
- Family story (first-gen, immigration)
- Intended major and career goals
- City, state, and region
- Challenges you have overcome
- Hobbies, talents, and languages

STEP 2: MINE YOUR NETWORK

- Ask counselor for local scholarship lists
- Check parents' employer programs
- Contact local credit unions and banks
- Reach out to community orgs
- Check religious institutions for awards

STEP 3: SEARCH SMART ONLINE

- Create profiles on Fastweb and CollegeBoard
- Search by identity: first-gen, major, city
- Explore HSF, UNCF, and APIASF awards
- Look for state and city-specific awards
- Set up email alerts for new matches

STEP 4: LOOK BEYOND GRADES

- Awards for leadership and community
- Overcoming-adversity scholarships
- Creative talent and hobby awards
- Multilingual student scholarships
- First-generation-specific funding

STEP 5: STAY ORGANIZED

- Build a deadline tracking spreadsheet
- Set weekly time blocks for applications
- Request recommendation letters early
- Draft and polish your core essay
- Keep copies of all submissions

YOU'VE GOT THIS

You don't have to do this alone. S&D mentors help students find and win scholarships every year. Visit scholarandadream.org to get started.

