

It's Scholarship Season!



If there's one thing college students love, it's free stuff. Students are barraged with offers for free food, free t-shirts, free trinkets, anything free. One free thing that many students get is free money in the form of scholarships and grants. While Gonzaga offers some type of financial aid to over 90% of GU students, many students also receive aid from outside sources. Local scholarships from hometowns are often available; one way to find these is ask local charity organizations and counselors at your former high school to see if they know of any local scholarships.

Another way to find scholarships is the internet. Be careful about what scholarship search engines you use and remember that scholarships or search engines that charge a fee are usually scams. You should never have to pay any kind of entry fee for legitimate scholarships. Here are some tools that can help college students find outside scholarships.

FINAID.ORG

Finaid.org is a nonprofit site that will walk you through the scholarship process from searching to applications. It also offers excellent information about student loans and other ways of paying

for college. The two scholarship search engines that it recommends most highly are fastweb.com's Scholarship Search and collegeboard.com's Fund Finder. Both of these websites allow students to search for scholarships, save their results, and track deadlines for their saved application list on a calendar. Fastweb.com will even send emails reminding users of approaching deadlines.

WASHBOARD.ORG

Washboard is a resource for students who graduated from Washington State high schools or who are attending college in the state. It is a new website and the search engine still has a few bugs, but it has many good features, such as ranking scholarships based on your eligibility from your profile and offering application management to help you stay organized.

OTHER STATE WEBSITES

Students who come from out-of-state may find outside scholarships on websites similar to Washboard. Most of these sites are fairly easy to find by performing an internet search or contacting your state's department of education or department of higher education. If your former high school has a website, this may also offer valuable tips and scholarship leads.

OTHER WEBSITES

There are several other websites that can help you on your college search. A few reputable and user-friendly options include:

www.brokscholar.com www.collegenet.com
www.college-scholarships.com
www.collegescholarship.org
www.gocollege.com www.scholarships.com
www.srexpress.com
www.scholarshipamerica.org
www.scholarshipexperts.com
www.schoolsoup.com

NON-INTERNET SCHOLARSHIPS

Gonzaga's financial aid department can also help students find outside scholarships. There are several binders located in Gonzaga's financial aid office with information about available outside scholarships sorted by type of student and field of study. Good Luck and Happy Hunting!

Information for this article came from finaid.org, fastweb.com, washboard.org, and scholarships.com

Hidden Housing Costs

Many students are looking for off-campus housing, either for summer break or for living next year. While rent may be much cheaper than living in the dorms, remember that in other houses or apartments you'll be paying for your own utilities, garbage, internet access, etc. Living off campus can be rewarding, but plan ahead for these costs:

ELECTRICITY AND GAS

Most houses in the neighborhood around campus are heated with natural gas. The electricity and gas bill comes from Avitsta. You can get a report from Avista of the high, low, and average bills for any address you are looking at.

Water, Sewer, and Garbage

The water and garbage bill will vary depending on how much water you use and what size garbage you select, but the average cost for water, garbage, and sewer is 90 dollars per month. You can make a better estimate for yourself using the Spokane rate schedule at : spokanepublicworks.org/sub3838.html?id=6780.

Internet and Cable

Another important cost is internet and cable access for your house. If you and your housemates decide to purchase cable and internet, shop around for introductory specials. Make sure to read the fine print of the contracts so you know what your committing to and when those introductory rates are going to expire!

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If you have any questions or comments about this newsletter or suggestions for future newsletter topics, please email Diana Mallon, Grant Coordinator at: dmallon@gonzaga.edu



SAVE THE DATE!

The second event in the Spring Speaker Series on Money Management will be held in the Cataldo Globe room on March 4th.

Watch your emails and flyers around campus for more information!