

Objective: Students will learn about common sources and eligibility criteria for scholarships.

Resources Needed for this Activity:

- PowerPoint: [11_U4_A1_PP_Is There a Scholarship for Me?]
- Video, "The Money is Out There – Just Look," 45 seconds. Available at: bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/video-transcription/money-is-out-there-to-help-you-just-look

Opening: 3 minutes – The advisor begins by asking if anyone knows students who are in college who received a scholarship. The advisor asks how the college student got the scholarship, and what it was for. If the students have examples, the advisor solicits enough responses to show a variety of sources and reasons for the scholarships. If the students do not volunteer examples, the advisor tells the students that there are many scholarships available, and that is today's topic.

Activity: 20 minutes – Slide 2: The advisor clicks on the picture to show the *Money is Out There – Just Look* video. The advisor asks the students to pay attention for answers to these questions: 1) What did he say students do not realize? and 2) How does he pay for college? The advisor clicks on picture in the slide and a website appears. On the website's right side, the advisor clicks on the triangle in the picture under 'Student Story' to play the video.

Slide 3: The advisor reviews the main points in the *Money is Out There – Just Look* video. The advisor draws out the following points with the class: 1) There is a lot of money out there to help with postsecondary costs and it is important that students look for that money, 2) If you do not find something at first, do not give up, 3) Scholarships and grants are main sources of financial aid, and 4) Work or work study can also be very helpful.

Slides 4-6: The advisor tells the students that it can take some work to find scholarships, and the slides show examples of types of organizations that provide scholarships. The advisor mentions any scholarship sources specific to their high school (such as a school foundation, Dollars for Scholars, etc.) Examples on the slides include:

- 1) Look locally and nationally
- 2) College you are applying to
 - a. Most colleges manage a set of scholarships with a variety of criteria
- 3) Corporations
 - a. Often for students interested in field related to that business
 - b. Sometimes have separate scholarships for employees' children
- 4) High school or school district
 - a. Counselor often has info on these scholarships, variety of criteria
- 5) Religious organizations
 - a. Sometimes easier to get, not as many applicants
 - b. Often requires affiliation with the religion
- 6) Chamber of Commerce (businesses)
 - a. Have own scholarships, great source of information about local business scholarships

- 7) Unions
 - a. E.g., AFL/CIO
 - b. Often need to be child of member
- 8) Military
 - a. ROTC, other scholarships, aid for veterans
- 9) Foundations (e.g., Gates)
- 10) Community and service organizations
 - a. Rotary, Kiwanis, Daughters of American Revolution,
 - b. Sometimes required relationship to member, sometimes not

After going through the ideas on the slides, the advisor asks the students if they have any other ideas about where to look for scholarships. During the discussion the advisor includes the idea of looking on the internet, but cautions the students that scams exist and they should never have to pay to apply for a scholarship. If they have any questions, they should contact a guidance counselor.

Slides 7-8: The advisor explains that there are a variety of eligibility and selection criteria for scholarships, and tells the students that they should decide if any of these types of scholarships on the slides might be a good fit for them:

- 1) Financial need
- 2) Academic achievement (not necessarily top of class, often B average)
- 3) Interest or skill-based, including languages, engineering, science, arts
- 4) Overcome major obstacles (family, life or health challenges)
- 5) Community service (volunteer, interest in field that will 'give back', e.g. social services, teaching)
- 6) Ethnicity or race (including descended from particular nationality)
- 7) First in family to attend college
- 8) Athletic (either to play in college, or based on high school sports)
- 9) Parent employment (company scholarships for children of employees)
- 10) Hobbies or interests (e.g., golf caddie, fishing, history, study abroad)

The advisor asks the students if they have heard of other eligibility criteria or factors.

Slide 9: The advisor states that another misconception is that scholarships are only available to students at the very top of their class academically. The advisor says that while academics are often a factor, there are many scholarships that focus on other factors. Last session they discussed some of those categories and this time they are going to talk about more unusual, but still real, scholarships. The list on the slide includes real scholarships that existed when this activity was written.

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| • Create a Sandwich | • Snowboard | • Duck Calling |
| • Duct-Tape Prom Outfit | • Baking | • Ocean Diver |
| • Marimba or Snare Solo | • Water Skiing | • Twins |
| • Golf Caddie | • Candy Technology | • A Cappella Singer |
| • Nordic Skiing | • Left-handed | • Vegan |
| • Fire Sprinkler Essay | • Women's Jewelry | • Video Game Developer |
| • Esthetician (healthy skin) | • LGBT | • Bowling |
| • Auto Show Poster | • Tall Person | • NY Film Academy |
| • Male Chorus/Singing | • Marbles | • Fly Fishing |
| • Footwear Design | • Study Abroad | • Young Poet |
| • Animal Protection | • Aviation | |
| | • Skateboard | |

Slide 9: The advisor asks students to select a partner. The advisor tells the students to interview their partner and identify at least two places they will look for scholarships, as well as characteristics about themselves that make them a strong candidate under two eligibility/selection criteria.

Closure: 5 minutes – The advisor asks selected dyads to share where they are going to look for scholarships, and why they might be eligible for scholarships. The advisor tells the students that next time they will look at unusual scholarships.

Finding Scholarships