



# Scholarship Scams

Don't lose money chasing money for college

Scholarships are meant to help you pay for college—not cost you money upfront. Scams are more common than you think, but with the right knowledge, you can spot them fast and stay protected.

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## You shouldn't have to pay to be awarded money

### Real scholarships don't charge

If a scholarship asks for a fee just to apply or "unlock" access—it's likely a scam.

### Watch Out

- Application or processing fees
- "Exclusive access" payments
- Requests for payment via gift cards or apps

**Real talk: You should never have to pay to win money**

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## "Guaranteed Win" Promises

### Red Flags

- "You've been selected!" (without applying)
- "Guaranteed scholarship" claims
- No eligibility requirements listed

### No one can promise scholarship dollars

Scammers love big promises—but real scholarships are competitive.

**If it sounds too good to be true—it probably is**

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## Personal Info Traps

### Protect your identity

Some scams exist just to collect your personal or financial information.

### Never Share

- Social Security numbers upfront
- Bank or credit card details
- Passwords or login info

**Stick to trusted platforms and verified applications**

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### Look Closely

- Misspelled URLs or strange email domains
- No contact information or physical address
- Poor grammar or rushed messaging

## Fake Websites & Emails

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### Not everything online is legit

Scammers create websites and emails that look real—but small details give them away.

**When in doubt, Google the organization before applying**

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## “We’ll Do It for You” Services

### Be careful who you trust

Some companies charge big fees to “find” or “apply” for scholarships on your behalf.

### Be Cautious

- High upfront costs
- Vague service promises
- Pressure to sign up quickly

**You can find and apply for scholarships yourself—for free**

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### Watch For

- No clear eligibility requirements
- Missing deadlines or award amounts
- No real contact info or organization listed

## Unclear or Missing Details

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### If it’s too vague, it could be a red flag

Many great scholarship opportunities are available in your community and are often less competitive.

**Take your time—real opportunities won’t disappear overnight**