



# **OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP 2024**

**WVWC Financial Aid**

## **Have you completed the FAFSA?**

The FAFSA must be completed in order for a student to receive federal or state financial aid. Some scholarship opportunities also require you to complete the FAFSA.

To complete the FAFSA, go to [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

The FAFSA application must be renewed each year in order for you to receive federal or state financial aid (including federal Direct Loans).

Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 each year for the following academic year.

## **Federal and State Financial Aid Updates**

Maximum Federal Pell Grant is \$7395

WV Higher Education Grant will increase from \$3300 to \$3400

WV Promise Scholarship will increase from \$5200 to \$5500

**\*\*\*You must complete your FAFSA prior to July 1, 2024 to be considered for the WV Higher Education Grant (Normal deadline of April 15 extended for 2024 due to FAFSA delays)\*\*\***

## **How do I find scholarships?**

### **Places to Look:**

- Your employer and/or your parents' places of employment
- Churches
- Community Organizations
- Employers and professional organizations that are affiliated with your field of study
- Schools that you attended
- Ask friends/family/professors (Networking)
- Online scholarship search engines

## Online Scholarship Searches

The following list of websites may be useful in your scholarship search. Although these websites or scholarship search engines may assist you in finding scholarships that you may qualify for, you will still need to apply for each scholarship individually.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) One of the most utilized financial aid search engines; searches for scholarships based on major, year in college, home state, interests, and career goals

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) Based on need and/or merit; searches for scholarships based on major, race/ethnicity, home state, professional organizations, military service, learning disabilities and career goals

[www.collegescholarships.com](http://www.collegescholarships.com) Provides searches for scholarships in various ways and provides sample essays

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org) This website, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, contains a section on scholarships that may be filtered by several criteria including level of study, award type, where you live, and affiliation required.

<https://myscholly.com/> This website/mobile app provides you with scholarships that you may apply for based on academic and extracurricular activities that you enter in your profile.

## Online Scholarship Searches (continued)

[www.umhef.org](http://www.umhef.org) United Methodist Higher Education Foundation offers scholarships that are available based on membership in United Methodist Church

[www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org) The Higher Education & Ministry offers scholarships that are available based on membership in United Methodist Church

[www.ycfwv.org](http://www.ycfwv.org) Your Community Foundation offers a variety of scholarships to students from their area; if deadlines have passed for this year, please note these opportunities for next year. These scholarships are for students in the following WV counties: Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor.

[www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) In exchange for service students earn money for college

You may also use your favorite search engine (i.e. Google or Bing) to search for scholarships. Be cautious in regards to possible scams.

## Sweepstakes Scholarships

Some companies offer sweepstakes scholarships that require little effort to apply. Though these scholarships are legitimate, keep in mind that the number of students who enter is great. Also, these companies will use the information that you provide to market their products and services. Here are a few sweepstakes scholarships that you may apply for if you are interested:

[pnc.com/scholarship](https://pnc.com/scholarship) PNC bank randomly selects six students every six months for \$2000 prize

[citizensbank.com/scholarship](https://citizensbank.com/scholarship) Citizens Bank randomly selects students for \$2,500 monthly prizes and a \$15,000 annual grand prize

[collegecovered.com/assist](https://collegecovered.com/assist) Discover Student Loans randomly selects students for a \$5,000 monthly prize

<https://www.collegeavestudentloans.com/promotions/monthly-scholarship-award/> College Avenue Student Loans randomly selects students monthly for a \$1,000 prize

<https://registration.salliemae.com/college-planning/registration/> Sallie Mae randomly selects students monthly for a \$1000 prize

<https://www.sofi.com/scholarship/> Sofi will randomly select a student monthly for a \$2,500 scholarship.

## Tips and Information

- Apply for local scholarships
- Apply for scholarships with smaller awards
- Follow directions and satisfy all of the requirements
- Proofread/ask someone else to proofread
- Submit early-well before the deadline
- Take time to search and apply
- Find a strategy that works for you
- Keep track of what scholarships you have applied for, deadlines, and any other pertinent information

## **Tips and Information**

**(continued)**

- Keep a copy of your application and supporting materials
- Keep a resume on hand and update frequently
- Be involved in clubs, organizations, employment, and/or other activities that will help you stand out from other applicants
- Choose references who know you well and will speak highly of you
- Do NOT reuse essays without revising to make them specific to each scholarship

## **Avoid Scholarship Scams**

- Protect your personal information
- Do not pay to apply
- Read the fine print
- Understand the terms and conditions
- Learn more about financial aid scams at the Federal Trade Commission website at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0082-scholarship-and-financial-aid-scams>

## **Outside Scholarships and other WVWC Financial Aid**

Outside scholarships are added in addition to any other financial aid that you already receive as long as the guidelines for the scholarship allow and total financial aid does not exceed your cost of attendance.

If you are awarded an outside scholarship, you should provide the Financial Aid office with a copy of the award letter for the scholarship as soon as possible. We will add the scholarship to your financial aid award, and it will show as pending on your statement of account until we receive payment from the scholarship provider.

You may view your financial aid package and your statement of accounts by clicking on the Colleague Self-service link on the main page of the [WVWC website](#).

## **WVWC Financial Aid Office Contact Information**

Our Office is located in the O'Roark Nordstrom Welcome Center .  
We are available between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM Monday-Friday.

Susan George, Director of Financial Aid

Matthew Linder, Assistant Director of Financial Aid

Marion Sparks, Financial Aid Counselor

Phone: 304-473-8080

Fax: 304-473-8824

Email: [fin\\_plan@wwc.edu](mailto:fin_plan@wwc.edu)

## Other Campus Resources

The following offices and staff members are available to assist you with the process of developing your scholarship application essay. Reach out and make an appointment if you would like assistance or editing.

**The Writing Center: Library Room 112**  
[writing\\_center@wwwc.edu](mailto:writing_center@wwwc.edu)  
 (304) 473-8854

### The Student Success Center: Second Floor of the Benedum Campus Center

**Dr. Justin Bowers**  
 Director of Career Services and Experiential Learning  
[bowers.j@wwwc.edu](mailto:bowers.j@wwwc.edu)

**Ashley Huffman**  
 Coordinator of First Generation Services  
[huffman.a@wwwc.edu](mailto:huffman.a@wwwc.edu)

**Athletics Department**  
**Jackie Hinton**  
 Director of Compliance and Academic Advising  
[hinton.j@wwwc.edu](mailto:hinton.j@wwwc.edu)

**Student Development**  
**Alisa Lively**  
 Dean of Students  
[lively.a@wwwc.edu](mailto:lively.a@wwwc.edu)

## Let's Get Started!

The remainder of our time today is reserved for you to begin applying for scholarships and ask any questions that you may have.

# GOOD LUCK!

