

about guarantees or promises that seem to be too good to be true. They probably are.

Don't miss the obvious. Be sure to check with the colleges in which you are interested. Check early. Get their forms and be ahead of their deadlines. Colleges, next to the government, are the largest source of scholarship money.

### #3 ...starting the process in your junior year and keeping it up throughout the college years.

Scholarship deadlines occur all over the calendar. There is no one scholarship deadline or application season. Begin your search in the winter of the junior year, send for applications throughout the summer (you will have taken the SAT or ACT by this time), and begin filling them out in early fall to meet fall deadlines and others throughout the senior year.



Monies are increasingly available throughout the college years. Scholarship committees often want their money to be awarded to students who display some track record of maturity or seriousness about their field of endeavor. If you don't find much funding for the freshman year, don't be discouraged. Keep up the search and application process for the next years too.

## The Top Ten Scholarship Mistakes

10. Not thinking about GPA until the senior year
9. Not taking the most challenging classes for which you are eligible
8. Thinking you are not eligible even without spectacular grades
7. Not being involved in outside activities
6. Not beginning the scholarship search in the junior year
5. Not following application directions closely
4. Not giving people you want to use as references adequate time to prepare and write effectively
3. Turning in sloppy or mistake-filled applications
2. Missing the application deadline

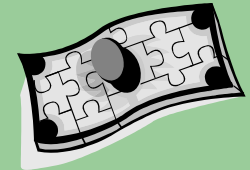
### And the #1 scholarship mistake:

1. Not being personally committed to the work of the scholarship search. (You must do this work. Your counselor may have some knowledge, but he or she is probably not a specialist in the area. You must become the specialist!)

(Adapted from *Scholarships, A Student's Guide To The Scholarship Process*. By A.R. Netley.)

*You're ready for the scholarship search when...*

Seven helps for understanding and entering the college scholarship search process



DCCS Guidance

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College Readiness Series #2

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## Search for private and college-based scholarships if ...

### #1

#### ...you have an earned GPA of a B or better.

- If your GPA (Grade Point Average) is in the range of a B (3.0) or better, you may be a candidate for scholarship money.

Lesser known private colleges often provide more money than major universities to students with GPAs closer to the 3.0 or B range.

### #2

#### ...you have excelled in a non-academic area.

- If you excel in a sport, music, art, drama or have achieved special levels of success in an activity or Christian or community endeavor (such as Eagle Scout, leadership in a mission project, community service, etc.) you may be a candidate for consideration.
- If you have competed in a field successfully, develop a portfolio of articles, photos, awards, etc. to present to scholarship committees. This should be of an excellent quality. All scholarship competitors are good.



You must display that you are a cut above the rest as a well-rounded, serious person. Your portfolio can help you with this impression. This is one place where SPELLING and GRAMMAR COUNT—big time!

### #3

#### ...you have leadership and service experience.

- Make reference to leadership roles you have had in student government, in your youth group, at your summer job, in a mission ministry, in a church or school activity, or in a community organization.
- Request letters of recommendation from people who have worked with you, supervised you, or to whom you have been accountable.

### #4

#### ...you have a parent working for a business that offers scholarships.

Some businesses offer scholarships to children of employees. Check out this possibility. Likewise, check out the availability of scholarships from church or community organizations to which your parents belong.

Other brochures in the **College Readiness Series** include:

*#1 You're ready to make a final college choice when...*

*#3 You're ready for a worthwhile college visit when...*

*#4 You're ready for the spiritual challenges of college when...*

*#5 You're ready to make a decision in harmony with the will of God when...*

## Search for private and college-based scholarships by ...

### #1

#### ...checking the computer and print resources in your guidance center.

Most high schools and public libraries have CD ROM or internet access to scholarship search resources.

If you do not know a WWW address, simply type in "scholarships" and you can begin your search for related web sites.

### #2

#### ...planning to do the search yourself.

There are many commercial scholarship search services available. Good ones are at best time-savers. Virtually all the information these services can give you, you are able to find yourself from print or internet resources. These services can cost between \$50 and \$500 or more. Be careful

### DCCS Guidance

More details about the scholarship search can be found in the college planning handbook, "*Walking Through the College Planning Process.*" (ACSI, 1999)