Scholarships: Bridging the Gap

Financial Aid Department
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
MAXIMIZING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION EFFORTS
I. What stops us?

A. TIME
B. PREPARATION
C. CONFUSION
II. Time

BE SMART. PLAN AHEAD. SAVING THE RIGHT INFORMATION WILL ELIMINATE HOURS OF RECREATING DATA. PLUS, YOU CAN CUT AND PASTE PARAGRAPHS INTO ESSAYS.
A. Approach it as a project and set aside one full day for research and one evening a week for follow-up.
B. Pick 4-5 good personal references. Obtain 3 letters of recommendation. Consider the following sources:

- neighbors
- mentors
- teachers
- employers

*Be cognizant regarding time.
III. Preparation

Organize scholarships by deadlines. Have letters of recommendation on file. Draft template essays and create your academic resume.
A. Create generic information to use for essays and applications.
   1. Who you are.
   2. Your likes and accomplishments.
   3. Your awards and recognitions.
   4. Why you’re interested in your career choice.
   5. Why you want to attend the school you’ve selected.
   6. Who are the people who’ve inspired you?
   7. Any volunteer activity.
B. Create your academic resume. You can use an on-line form and be sure to include school history, clubs or sports, volunteer activities, hobbies, employment and accomplishments.
LEARN TO UNDERSTAND THE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO MOVE ON TO OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS; YOU DO NOT HAVE TO APPLY FOR EVERY ONE.
A. Focus primarily on scholarships for which you meet the requirements, BUT do not discount the scholarships you may not think you qualify for.
B. Confirm deadlines. Can you meet the deadline and gather all the information required? If not, move on.
C. Be realistic. Keep your expectations where they need to be. Remember to use this as an additional source of college funding ... not the only source. Be prepared for some rejection; you will develop that great ability to bounce back!
D. Normally, applicants DO NOT hear from a scholarship group except to confirm receipt of their application, or if they are seriously considered as an award winner. Do not be surprised if you never hear from them.
ACADEMIC RESUMES

HOW DO WE CREATE ONE?
Objective: An entry-level position in a well established organization which will allow me to grow and expand my knowledge

Education:
08/2004 – present       No Name High School       Deland, Florida

GPA:
Honors List, Perfect Attendance
Advance Placement courses included: English
Technical training courses included: Networking I/II

Summary of Achievements:
National Honor Society       2004 to present
John Doe Award for Outstanding Student       December 2008

Volunteer Activities:
Counselor for Summer Camp
Homeless Coalition       July – September 2008
Shelter Volunteer

Extracurricular activities and/or Associations:
No Name High School Drama Club       2007, 2008
1st Baptist Church Youth Group       2005 - present
Areas to consider when creating an Academic Resume
Professional, Vocational or Research Objective

Summary of Qualifications

Professional Licenses or Certifications

Education

Listing of Relevant Course work to Match Career or Academic Objective

Educational or Professional Honors or Awards

Academic Research, Laboratory Experience and Related Skills

Description of Papers Written, Publications

Academic or Professional Presentations

Related Extracurricular Activities, Professional and Association Memberships

Community Involvement

Work Experience - Paid or Volunteer

Technical and Specialized Skills such as Computer Programming or Laboratory Instrumentation

Interests - Future Academic or Professional Goals

Travel / Exposure to Cultural Experiences

Foreign Language Skills

Additional Information that May Support Objective or Qualifications
Scholarship Search Engines

SCHOOL SOUP/COLLEGE SOUP
WWW.SCHOOLSOUP.COM

FINAID
WWW.FINAIID.ORG

FASTWEB
WWW.FASTWEB.COM

SCHOLARSHIP AMERICA
WWW.SCHOLARSHIPAMERICA.ORG

BROKE SCHOLAR
WWW.BROKESCHOLAR.COM
Be organized
Prepare yourself
Do not get discouraged
Be aware of deadlines
Use your resources
Talk to people

Keep on applying even when you are in college