



The York College Guide to Applying for Scholarships



The Scholarship Center Room AC-4DA1 Website: York.Cuny.Edu/Scholarships

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The York College Scholarship Center

The Vision

The Scholarship Center is committed to providing assistance throughout the scholarship process, and to support continuing scholars' academic success. It envisions service to a student body that reflects the high academic achievements, cultural diversity and richness of York College. The Center instills the behaviors of awareness, investigation and realization that promote the ideas of scholarly and individual development.

The Mission

The Scholarship Center offers information on a variety of scholarship programs. The Center is a student-centered office whose mission is to raise awareness of scholarship opportunities available to the college community. This mission includes the following goals:

- Research scholarship opportunities
- Assist in the scholarship process to write clearly, critically and effectively
- Develop technological online Research & Application

The Scholarship Center assists Merit Scholars to develop students' intellectual, professional, and personal growth by integration... obtaining knowledge of diversity... meeting changing social and intellectual needs by developing undergraduate preparation ...from their academic strengths. The Center aims to produce graduates who are poised to meet new challenges and become tomorrow's leaders by:

- Engaging in college activities and public advocacy, thus
- Enriching their communities with public service

Today's Scholars, Tomorrow's Leaders





Introduction to Scholarships

York College offers many scholarship options for ambitious, academically-talented students. Many of these scholarships have few applicants, but upon deciding that you would like to apply for scholarships, you need to research. On the York College website there are many links to different scholarships. Each scholarship has a list of eligibility requirements; therefore you must read it and see if you meet the requirements for that scholarship.

This process of researching can be stressful, so we have a list of search engines for scholarships available on the website, too. After you have a list of scholarships you wish to apply for, there are additional steps you need to take in the application process. You need to fill out the scholarship application, obtain two letters of recommendation (preferably from a professor), write a personal essay, create a resume and obtain a copy of your transcript. Usually scholarships are given for the whole school year, so you must apply for scholarships before the academic year begins in the fall. Allow yourself enough time to research, do all the required attached paperwork, and apply for the scholarships. If you have any questions or need help, please contact the Scholarship Center, 4DA1, at 718-262-2347.



Tips on how to research and apply for scholarships

- Do not limit yourself by doing research only in your major. (i.e., research according to courses you have taken, your sex, ethnicity, organizations you are part of or would like to be part of, hobbies, sports, etc.)
- Not all scholarships are for those students with high GPA's (3.0 or more), but it does help. There are a few scholarships out there for those students with or below a 3.0 GPA.
- Update your resume, as some scholarships may require it. Please visit Career Services (AC-3E03) for assistance with this matter.
- Your Personal Statement/Essay can be changed according to scholarship questions. Be sure to have someone in the Writing Center (AC-1C18) proofread your Statement/Essay before you submit it.
- Have more than one recommendation (faculty member, community leader, and/or employer).
- Some may want a head shot: be sure to supply a professional picture.
- Some scholarships may require you to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). Scholarships want to see whether you are receiving financial aid. Scholarships requiring this information may wish to see if you have financial. Each scholarship may consider financial need differently.
- On a Keep track of the scholarships you apply for on a spreadsheet. Use this spreadsheet to check on the status of your applications.
- If you get a scholarship, always be sure to thank that person or organization that awarded you that particular scholarship.



Checklist for Scholarships

General Checklist

- Scholarship Application
- Personal Statement / Essay
- 2 Letters of Recommendations (faculty/teachers)
- Official Transcript *[If requested, obtain from Registrar office rm. AC-1H08]*
- Resume

Additional Options Checklist

- Recommendation from a community service representative
- Biographical Essay
- Headshot Picture
- Unofficial Transcript





Personal Statement / Essay

1. First Think About Yourself:

Details of your life help the committee better understand you or help set you apart from other applicants. Mention how you have overcome any unusual obstacles or hardships. Write about personal characteristics, for example, integrity, compassion, persistence. Do not forget to illustrate your skills, for example, leadership, communicative, analytical.

2. Submit a personal statement of 300 to 500 words (two typewritten pages).

As described, this statement should include the following:

1. Reasons you selected York College.
2. Reasons you feel that you should receive the scholarship.
3. Benefits you have received from any community service experience you have had.
4. Contributions you feel you can make or are already making as a York College student.

3. Tips:

- Find an Angle and Talk About Real Experiences
- Concentrate on Your Opening Paragraph
- Develop the Ideas and Stay Focused
- Type and proofread your statement very carefully
- Avoid Clichés
- Use Attention Grabbers

The Scholarship Center website has a sample essay and PowerPoint Presentation that will help you write your personal statement. <http://www.york.cuny.edu/centers-institutes/scholarships/student-resources>



SAMPLE: Essay

Personal Statement for York Scholarship

Prepared by Les Raphael

Submit a personal statement of 300 to 500 words (typewritten pages) as described, and include the following:

- 1. Reasons you selected York College.**
- 2. Reason(s) you feel that you should receive the scholarship**
- 3. Benefits you've received from any community service experience**
- 4. Contributions you feel you can make or are making as a York College student**

My two passions in life drew me to York College. While some of my fellow high school classmates looked for a campus close to home, others chose the freedom of being far away. Some looked for specific programs of study like pharmacy or law enforcement. Others just followed their friends. I, however, chose York because it is the only school in New York where a student can play in a jazz band and also fly airplanes, the two overwhelming passions of my life.

I have been playing the trumpet since I was seven years old. My uncle had an old horn, which he let me fool around with when I was a child. I still have that trumpet and have learned to play it pretty well. York's Jazz program and classes are both strong academically and allow students to perform with other musicians. I plan to continue following this passion here at York as a minor and then as a life-long hobby.

My other passion, Aviation, is what I want to major in at York and then find work in that field. I want to fly but I also want to understand the business and management areas of Aviation. One day, I hope to manage airport operations at one of New York's major airports. Only York College could offer me the chance to fly an airplane, learn about airport operations, and at the same time make music with my trumpet.

I believe that I would be a worthy recipient of a York Scholarship. I did well in high school and after one year at York, I have completed 29 credits and have a 3.47 G.P.A. I belong to the flying club and perform with York Jazz ensemble. Also, with the help of one of my music professors, I have organized a group of student musicians and we go to nursing homes in Queens to perform old favorite jazz numbers for the senior residents. Seeing the smiles and clapping and singing along by people who are my grandmother's age makes me feel that I am really helping those people to have a better quality of life.

I am a student who is proud to be at York and will continue to contribute to the quality of student life. I plan to be a leader in the flying club and the jazz ensemble and eventually in student government, where one of my main goals would be to increase the number of paid internships for students. I myself plan to intern at Kennedy airport or with one of the airlines such as Jet Blue. When the managers there see how hard I work, how focused I am, and how well educated I have become, they will not only want me to continue working with them, they will also want more interns and full-time workers who study at or have graduated from York College. (480)

REMINDER: Always proof read your Statement/Essay before you submit it. York College Writing Center, Room 1C18



Sample: Resume *Always have someone in Career Services Room AC-3E03 proof your resume*

First Last Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Phone (Cell/Home)
Email Address

Objective (optional)

What do you want to do? If you include this section it should be a sentence or two about your employment goals. A customized objective that describes why you are the perfect candidate for the job can help your resume stand out from the competition.

Career Highlights / Qualifications (optional)

A customized section of your resume that lists key achievements, skills, traits, and experience relevant to the position for which you are applying can serve dual purposes. It highlights your relevant experience and lets the prospective employer know that you have taken the time to create a resume that shows how you are qualified for the job.

Experience

This section of your resume includes your work history. List the companies you worked for, dates of employment, the positions you held and a bulleted list of responsibilities and achievements.

Company #1
City, State
Dates Worked
Job Title
Responsibilities / Achievements
Responsibilities / Achievements

Company #2
[same format as Company #1; same for Company #3]

Education

In the education section of your resume, list the colleges you attended, the degrees you attained, and any special awards and honors you earned.

College, Degree
Awards, Honors

Skills

Include skills related to the position / career field that you are applying for i.e. computer skills, language skills.

References available upon request



Where to search for scholarships

Entering Freshman Scholarships

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/centers-institutes/scholarships/freshman-scholarships>

Prestigious Scholarships

Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/centers-institutes/scholarships/prestigious-scholarships>

International Student Scholarships

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/centers-institutes/scholarships/international-students>

Search Engines for International Scholarships

- 1) Internationalstudents.com
- 2) International Financial Aid and College Scholarship Search

Search Engines for Scholarships

1) FastWeb Scholarship

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

2) Financial Aid and Scholarships

<http://www.finaid.org/>

3) College Board Scholarship Search

http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/servlet/scholarshipsearchservlet?SS_ACTION=DB_SEARCH&pageIndex=0

4)College Data

https://www.collegedata.com/cs/search/scholar/scholar_search_tmpl.jhtml

5) CollegeNet's Scholarship Database

<http://www.collegenet.com/elect/app/app>



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I get a scholarship?

First you need to visit the York College website and research what scholarships you qualify for.

2. Where can I find scholarships?

The York College website has many scholarships for people to apply for.

3. Are there scholarships based on my major?

Yes, there are scholarships for majors, and on the York College website there is a tab just for scholarships by major.

4. Can I receive multiple scholarships?

You can receive many scholarships for the year. There is no limit for the number of scholarships you can get, but there is a limit on the amount of money you can receive.

5. When is the best time to apply for scholarships?

You should be applying for scholarships a year before you are planning on attending. You must also take into consideration the deadlines of each scholarship because each scholarship is different. Once the semester begins you cannot apply for scholarships for that year.

6. What is the GPA requirement for scholarships?

It depends on the scholarship but usually as long as you have a 3.0 you will be qualified for many scholarships.

7. Are there scholarships for international students?

Yes, there are scholarships; you just have to research them on the website.

8. How do I get scholarships for graduate school?

We currently have some scholarships for student for graduate school listed on the website. We highly recommend that you visit the website of graduate school that you are planning on attending for additional scholarships.



Offices / Services

Scholarship Center Room AC-4DA1

Career Service Room AC-3E03

Writing Center Room AC-1C18

Student Financial Services Room AC-1M08

Student Activities Room AC-1E01

Academic Advisement Center Room AC-2C01

Registrar Room AC-1H08

Bursar Room AC-1H01

Counseling Center AC-1G02

Academic Departments:

1. School of Arts and Sciences

- Biology Room AC-4E03
- Chemistry Room AC-3F01
- Earth and Physical Sciences Room AC-2F09
- English Room AC-2A16
- Foreign Languages, ESL & Humanities Room AC-3C08
- History and Philosophy Room AC-3D08
- Mathematics and Computer Studies Room AC-2C07
- Performing and Fine Arts Room AC-1A12

2. School of Business and Information Systems

- Accounting and Finance Room AC-2B06
- Business and Economics Room AC-2B07
- CUNY Aviation Institute Room AC-4G04E

3. School of Health and Behavioral Sciences

- Behavioral Sciences Room AC-4D06
- Health and Physical Education Room HP-201
- Health Professions Room SC-112
- Occupational Therapy Room AC-1E12
- Social Sciences Room AC-3A11
- Teacher Education Room AC-1D12