

## Some Tips!

### Tip #1: This is a Numbers Game

The more awards you apply for, the more rewards you are likely to receive

### Tip #2: Small = Big

Every scholarship for which you are eligible is worth applying for, because a bunch of small scholarships will add up to a big one.

### Tip #3: A Portfolio is a Time-Saver

Each scholarship application asks for information about you. Rather than reinvent the wheel all the time, develop a portfolio of materials that you can draw on, time and time again. Have friends, family, school or an English teacher review your portfolio and offer insight and advice. (Refer back to the five A's)

### Tip #4: The Devil is in the Details

Attention to details is vital for scholarship applications, from when to meet deadlines to the format in which you submit your application. This is a great time to invest in a notebook or day planner, whether it is on a computer or paper.

### Tip #5: Scholarship Search is a Year Round Sport

Scholarship deadlines are scattered throughout the year. Set aside time each day to review new scholarship opportunities.

### Tip #6: There are scholarships for Everyone

While it may seem that many scholarships are intended for the very top academic performers or the students in financial need, the reality is that there are scholarships for everyone.

### Tip #7: It's Never Early or Late to Search

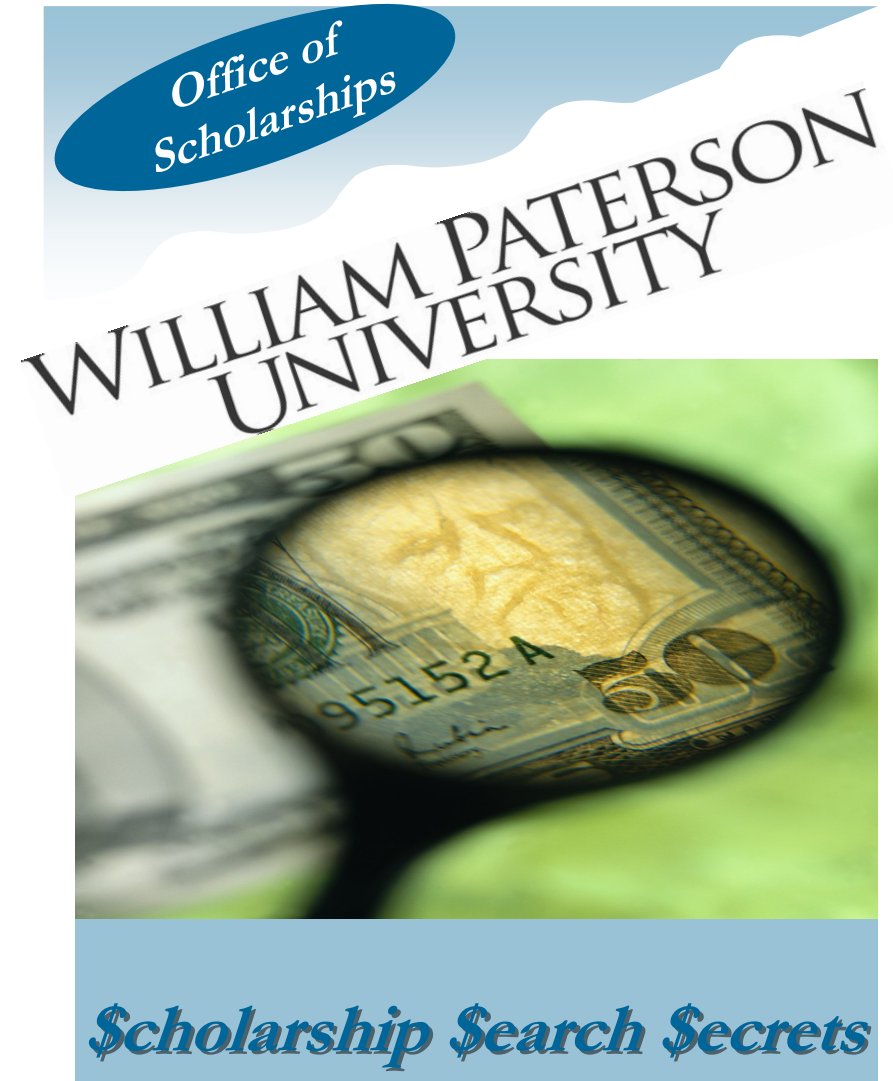
The best time to start is always right now, even if you are half-way through your last year. Obviously, the earlier you start, the better, but better late in the game than not playing.

## Office of Scholarships

The Office of Scholarships at William Paterson University obtained and summarized the information on this brochure by the Christopher Loan and the Student Loan Network. You can read the full brochure at

<http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/Scholarships.pdf>.

Our goal is to provide you with secrets for finding college scholarships at little or no cost to you, except your time. You will learn tricks with search engines, resources online, and how to maximize search tools to work for you and your college education.



Office of Scholarships

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

*Scholarship Search Secrets*

The image features a magnifying glass over a US dollar bill, symbolizing the search for financial aid. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with a blue and green color scheme.

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# Scholarship Search Secrets

## Scholarship Search Secret #1:

### *Who are you?*

It is vitally important that you determine who you are in great detail- that detail will be essential to finding scholarships specifically tailored to your background.

#### *What have you done so far in life?*

Make lists of different things you've done, different hobbies, sports, activities, events you've attended, places you've been or lived, grades and awards achieved in school so far.

#### *Who do you know in life?*

Make lists of people you know, famous or not, as well as companies you or your family members do business with, groups or organizations of which you are a member, friends, family members, service providers. Include organizations that you may not be part of, but your immediate family is, especially your parents.

#### *Where are you going?*

If you have strong feelings about the direction of your life, your education and your future, make note of them. Make a list of things that drive you, that motivate you, things that keep you awake at night.

#### *What's so interesting?*

Name five things about you that, as far as you know, are unique to you and only you. If you have trouble with this, get together with some close friends and ask them.

#### *May I see your papers?*

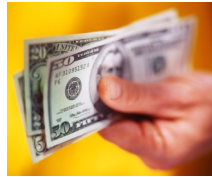
Take all of these lists and combine them with all the papers and tidbits you've gathered so far. Organize what you've gathered into a few major categories-the five A's: academics, activities, athletics, achievements, and associations.

## Scholarship Search Secret #2:

### *The FAFSA*

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): a form which unlocks all kinds of scholarships, grants, and financial aid.

There are two basic ways to file a FAFSA-by mail and online. You can download the FAFSA at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> and fill it out online.



## Scholarship Search Secret #3:

### *Meet Your New Best Friend*

Use Google, Yahoo, or other search engines for scholarship search.

## Scholarship Search Secret #4:

### *Start Narrow*

Construct a list of questions (queries) to try in Google. What's going to be important here is to start searching for scholarships based on relevance to you. For example, a reasonable search is "William Paterson University Scholarships".

## Scholarship Search Secret #5:

### *Magic Words*

Use search words such as: *scholarship, scholarships, gifts, grants, award, financial aid, endowment, prize, foundation, fellowship, honorarium, bequest, aid, tuition, trust, and stipend.*

## Scholarship Search Secret #6:

### *Red Alert*

Google Alerts: a tool that searches for you every day, every minute, keeping an eye on everything, and alerting you when new scholarships based on your needs become available. Get started by surfing over to [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts) and if you don't already have a Google account, now it's the time to set one up. One thing that is important is that Google Alerts scan through both news and the Web, so you'll want to make sure you select both.

## Scholarship Search Secret #7:

### *Read All About It*

Google Reader: an RSS reader which lets you subscribe to just about any RSS feed on the web. What's an RSS feed? Think of it as a news-broadcast on-demand. You get the latest news as soon as it's published in an easy to use reader. How? Go to Google news at [news.google.com](http://news.google.com) and do a news search for one scholarship term e.g. MBA scholarship. Google Reader can keep you up to date on the latest scholarship news that is relevant to your needs.