

## Scholarship FAQs

**Q: What is the difference between a *merit* and a *needs-based* scholarship?**

**A:** Merit scholarships are awarded based on a student's academic performance, extracurricular activities and other accomplishments regardless of socio-economic background. Needs-based scholarships are awarded by taking into account the same factors as a merit based scholarship, including demonstrated financial need for the scholarship.

**Q: Is there a limit to how many scholarships I can receive?**

**A:** No, you can combine as many scholarships as you have received to cover costs for post-secondary education.

**Q: How many scholarships should I apply for?**

**A:** According to the FL DOE, students receive 1 in 10 scholarships they apply for. So, if you would like 4 scholarships, your best chances of getting that would be to apply for a minimum of 40 scholarships.

**Q: What is the difference between a one-time award scholarship and a renewable scholarship?**

**A:** Scholarships awarded once are a flat amount of money, given once. A renewable scholarship, such as the [Bright Futures Scholarship](#), means that once you have received it, you will continue to be awarded a certain amount of money, at certain times of the year, for a certain length of time. Often, renewable scholarships have contingencies to continue renewal, such as maintaining a 3.0 GPA, taking a minimum number of credit hours each semester, or conducting and presenting research. If awarded a renewable scholarship, be sure to frequently check renewal standards so as not to lose the scholarship.

**Q: When should I start applying for scholarships?**

**A:** There is no set deadline to start applying for scholarships, and there are some that you can apply for beginning in middle school. Many you can only apply for as a senior. The best way to stay on track for what scholarships are available is to register for a scholarship search engine such as [www.myscholly.com](http://www.myscholly.com) or [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and to subscribe to the [District Scholarship Blog](#). Each time a new scholarship is added, you will receive an email about it. Scholarships can also be sorted by factors such as month, applicant type, and award amount by visiting the [District Scholarship Spreadsheet](#).

**Q: What are some things to watch out for when applying for scholarships?**

**A:** You should never, ever have to pay to apply for a scholarship. If you do, it is most likely a scam. To report a scholarship scam or find out more information about identifying fraudulent scholarships, go to this [link](#).