



# PRACTICAL TIPS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

AND GET SCHOLARSHIPS!

## TAKE THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP AFFORD YOUR UNW EDUCATION

### 1. INVESTIGATE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE COST.

Try our **Net Price Calculator** at [unwsp.edu/finaid](http://unwsp.edu/finaid) for help understanding college costs. (Don't forget to submit your FAFSA! You won't know the actual cost of your education until you have the results.)

### 2. MAKE A PAYMENT PLAN BEFORE YOU BEGIN.

Your payment plan should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound. Commit to evaluating your progress every semester!

### 3. BALANCE YOUR IDEAL WITH YOUR RESOURCES AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK.

Imagine where you would go if money was no object—then evaluate what you could do to make it happen. Balance that with your willingness to find scholarships, work and sacrifice. Determine what is attainable for you!

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## CREATIVE PATHWAYS

If you don't feel you can afford the traditional 4-year experience, try these creative pathways to earning a degree!

#### PSEO

Minnesota high school students can start college early, **for free!**

#### Early College

Take college courses at a discounted rate while you're still a high school student.

#### Degree in Three

Tailor your coursework to finish a degree in just three years!

#### Online Programs

Take one class at a time or earn a degree—online, at your convenience.

We're here to help!

Office of Admissions | 651-631-5111 | [admissions@unwsp.edu](mailto:admissions@unwsp.edu) | [unwsp.edu](http://unwsp.edu)



# GET THE SCHOLARSHIPS YOU DESERVE.

AND GET PRACTICAL TIPS TO PAY FOR UNW

The scholarship search takes time, but it could be the best-paying job you'll ever have. You may earn \$1,000 in 100 hours at a regular part-time job, but you can earn \$1,000 in just 5 hours of scholarship searching.

## 1. KNOW YOUR WHAT AND WHY.

Scholarship providers want to fund people who are going to do great things; therefore, you need to know:

- What you are passionate about doing.
- Why it is going to change the world. Spend time in prayer over this.

## 2. MAKE A LIST...THEN GOOGLE IT.

Make a list of:

- EVERYTHING you're involved in
- EVERYTHING you like
- EVERYTHING you're good at
- EVERYTHING that relates to you (as in, your hometown, religion, political party)
- EVERYTHING that you want to do
- EVERYTHING that you've won
- EVERYTHING your parents AND grandparents have been involved in (e.g., American Legion, Navy, etc.)

Then, find all the synonyms you can think of for those things (e.g., instead of just "horse," try: equine, equestrian, horse training, stable, ranch, farm, animal, veterinary, vet tech, horseback, etc).

Now Google every one of those words with the term scholarship, grant, fellowship and award. These are the scholarships you're highly qualified to receive and that few people will apply for.

## 3. LOOK LOCALLY.

It is easier to compete in your hometown for a scholarship than to compete at a national level. Your scholarship search should include your guidance office or career center at your school (homeschoolers, you should still take advantage of resources at your local public school).

## 4. EXPAND YOUR SEARCH ONLINE.

At Northwestern, we recommend that families DO NOT pay for any scholarship search sites as there are plenty of great FREE sites! We suggest these:

- [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)
- [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)
- [schoolsoup.com](http://schoolsoup.com)
- [go.salliemae.com/scholarship](http://go.salliemae.com/scholarship)

## 5. PRIORITIZE.

If you are very specifically qualified for a particular scholarship, apply for it! If you are sort of qualified, consider it. If you are qualified and so are 15,000 other students, skip it.

## 6. KEEP A MASTER DATABASE.

Record all of your awards, activities, honors, club positions, leadership activities, club involvements and community service/volunteer hours.

## 7. KEEP TRACK OF EXPENSES.

Expenses for scholarship applications (postage/envelopes/etc) are tax-deductible, so keep track of them!

# GET EQUIPPED.