

# College Scholarships for High School Credit

Lee Binz, The HomeScholar  
www.HomeHighSchoolHelp.com  
"Helping parents homeschool high school"

## College Scholarships Simply Explained

- Merit Scholarships: who you are, what you have done, talents you have
- Small scholarships can have big rewards and lead to big scholarships

## Prepare for College Admission and Scholarships

- Plan a Rigorous Curriculum
  - Exceed ordinary college prep model
- Study hard for the SAT or ACT
  - One section of one test, 3-4 days a week
  - Real tests by Princeton Review

Planning Guide	
Rigorous Curriculum for College Preparation	
English	4 years
Math	3-4 years
Social Studies	3-4 years
Science	3 years, one with lab
Foreign language	2-3 years of a single language
PE	2 years
Fine arts	1 year or more
Electives	As needed
Total credits: 20-24 or more	

## Find Scholarships

- Ask your friends and search local high schools
- Search online: child's specialization plus "scholarship" and scholarship search websites

www.collegenet.com  
www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org  
www.edfinancial.com

scholarships.com  
www.fafsa.ed.gov

## Filter Scholarships

- Read carefully: "one strike and you are out" - eliminate at the first negative
- Eliminate school-specific, or those that require skills your child doesn't have
- Cost-benefit analysis; a 3000 word essay for a \$100 prize may not be worth the effort

## Format Scholarships

- Sort by due date, print, and place in a 3-ring binder
- Each scholarship is part of your curriculum, and replaces other assignments
- Allow time to complete the scholarship AND complete application AND mail it

## Follow Through with Scholarships

- Requires effort from the student - brainstorm together
- After first draft, review previous winners and revise draft
- Focus on learning, not winning - even a "perfect" scholarship doesn't mean your child will win

## File Scholarships

- Apply each assignment to homeschool course descriptions, e.g. English, art, technology credits
- One credit is 120-180 hours - winning a scholarship is always an A for the assignment
- Apply results to activity and award list - notify colleges if appropriate.

## Winning Benefits of Applying for Scholarships

- Winning Benefits: money, awards lead to bigger awards, publication
- Non-Winning Benefits: high school credit, essay and application skills, value of skills

## Consider Alternatives: Other ways to Afford College

- Focus on scholarships from colleges rather than private groups: Getting the Big Scholarships
- Focus on affordable college education - living at home saves thousands each year
- Consider homeschooling college or dual enrollment at community college

## Resources

- [The HomeScholar Guide to College Admission and Scholarships](#)
- [Setting the Records Straight: How to Craft Homeschool Transcripts and Course Descriptions](#)
- [College Scholarships for High School Credit: Learn and Earn With This Two-for-One Strategy](#)