



# Applying for College Scholarships

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# Applying for College Scholarships

- Available to – MSUCOM Students (Incoming – Fourth Year)
- Amount Available - over \$2,700,000 (2016/2017)
- Number of Awards - ~150 per year



# Applying for College Scholarships

- What is the first step?
  - Goto Scholarship Information Web Page:  
[http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Financial\\_Aid/Scholarships.htm](http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Financial_Aid/Scholarships.htm)
  - Familiarize yourself with the location of the link to the On-line Application Form.
  - Familiarize yourself with descriptions of all available college scholarships.



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- What is my next step?
  - Carefully read the descriptions for all available college scholarships and note the following:
    - Eligibility – *Students who have not started classes (incoming students) are not considered to be first year students when applying for college scholarships.*
    - Criteria – Do you meet the criteria?



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- What is my next step (continued)?
  - Award (Scholarship) Amount
  - Application Process – *All applications will require an essay. The terms - letter of application or letter of nomination - mean the same thing as the term essay. All awards will be made during the Spring Semester and will be effective the following Fall Semester. Awards are credited to a student's financial aid package.*
  - Application Due Date – January 5<sup>th</sup> unless noted. It is best to apply for all scholarships by January 5<sup>th</sup> due date.



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- I now know that there are scholarships I am eligible for! How do I apply?
  - Click on the link at the top of the web page entitled: On-line Application Form.
  - Complete the application form by entering all required data. When you are finished, click the submit button at the bottom of the page.



# Applying for College Scholarships

- You stated above that all applications require an essay! Where do I find information on writing the essay?
  - At the top of the On-line Application Form, is a description of the essay writing process and how to submit the essay.



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- Do I need to write an essay for each scholarship I am interested in applying for?
  - The answer is no! We want you to write only one essay. It should be no longer than 300 words.





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- What should be included in the essay?
  - Your essay should reflect your goals, ideals, values as an osteopathic physician in training, achievements, and how financial assistance would make a difference. Convince the College Scholarship Committee why they should select you. This is a “Big Picture” document, so please avoid a lot of specifics.



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- Is there anything that should not be included in the essay?
  - Yes! You should not include information regarding:
    - Academic performance
    - Indebtedness
  - The College Scholarship Committee has access to this information.



# Applying for College Scholarships

- Once your essay is complete, send an e-mail copy of your essay to both William M. Falls. Ph.D. at [bill.falls@hc.msu.edu](mailto:bill.falls@hc.msu.edu) and to Ms. Brenda Schmidt at [schmid23@msu.edu](mailto:schmid23@msu.edu)
- The Subject Line on your e-mail should state: Last Name, First Name, followed by: Scholarship Essay (e.g. Falls, William, Scholarship Essay)



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- I understand that some scholarships require a letter(s) of support. Is this true and where/when do I submit the letter(s)?
  - Some scholarships do require a letter(s) of recommendation from an outside person (e.g. D.O., someone who knows you well, etc.).
  - The College Scholarship Committee will request letters of support for scholarships which require them after applicants are deemed competitive.
  - Letters should be submitted to Dr. Falls via original hardcopy, e-mail attachment or fax (see next to last slide for mailing information).



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- What happens now?
  - Once the application form and essay are submitted, they go to the College Scholarship Committee for review and decisions.
  - The College Scholarship Committee, made up of faculty and staff, review and award scholarships on a rolling basis from January through March during Spring Semester.



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- Is it possible that I will be awarded more than one scholarship?
  - It is possible, but the Committee tries to award scholarships to as many deserving applicants as possible. Therefore, most awardees only receive one scholarship.



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- I understand that many scholarships require an interview with the College Scholarship Committee to help them in their decision making! Is this true?
  - Yes!
    - The interviews are scheduled during Spring Semester and are ~15 minutes in length. Approximately 48 applicants are interviewed.



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- What is discussed at the interview and how should I prepare?
  - The Committee will discuss with you the contents of your essay, information on your application form, your qualifications for scholarships, why are you the best candidate and how do you fit the criteria?





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- Is there anything else I need to know about the interview?
  - Yes!
    - It is important that you dress appropriately (business casual).
    - The interview is informal, so you should relax!! It is like a conversation.



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- How and when will I be notified if I receive/do not receive a scholarship?
  - Students who receive scholarships will be notified by e-mail, and a letter, January through March. Remember, awards are made on a rolling basis.
  - Students who do not receive scholarships will be notified by e-mail after the last scholarship is awarded in March.



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- Do you have any final words of advice?
  - Please do not wait until the last day to apply.
  - If you have questions, please contact:

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