



Guide to Scholarships for African American Students

PointUniversity

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Introduction

While most students take out loans to pay for higher education, students of different races and ethnicities do so at dramatically different rates.

For example, [81% of African American students](#) borrow money to fund their education, versus 63% of white students. Unsurprisingly, a higher percentage of African American students drop out of college due to financial concerns, and often with more debt than white students.

If you're looking for an affordable pathway to your education, scholarships provide a potential point of entry. Funding that never needs to be repaid, scholarships may cover some or all of your education expenses, making it possible to graduate from college with less overall student loan debt. Scholarships serve all types of students, and many organizations give awards specifically to African American students, particularly those from lower-income backgrounds.

The scholarship application process can be complex and competitive, and it's often difficult to determine for which scholarships you're eligible. This guide serves as a starting point on your scholarship search, identifying dozens of opportunities that aid African American students at Point. Along with general scholarships, you'll find awards that serve specific academic or career paths, such as business and education.

Applying

Where can I find scholarships for African American students?

Students can explore the Point online programs [website](#) to find information about scholarships available to Point students.

Students can use the U.S. Department of Labor's scholarship search [tool](#) or contact professional associations, foundations, and local organizations to discover other scholarship opportunities. They can also reach out to staff at their church to explore opportunities specific to their religion.

Students should explore as many scholarship opportunities as possible to strengthen their chances of receiving funds.

Applying

Where can I find scholarships for African American students?

- **Your Church:** Church administration often have relationships with scholarship organizations, so contact your church's staff for information about these opportunities, their requirements, and how to apply for them.
- **Foundations:** Foundations often offer scholarships for students from certain demographics or working in specific fields. Find foundations relevant to your career aspirations to inquire about scholarship opportunities.
- **Local Organizations:** Local organizations, including clubs like Kiwanis and Rotary, often provide scholarships for students each year. Students should seek out both secular and Christian organizations to learn about funding opportunities.
- **Professional Associations:** Professional organizations sometimes offer scholarships for students intending to pursue majors in their field. Contact these organizations to ask about scholarship opportunities.
- **The U.S. Department of Labor's [Scholarship Search Tool](#):** U.S. Department of Labor maintains an online database where students can search for scholarship opportunities. The search function allows students to use keywords and filter search results to find scholarships for their particular career interests or demographics.

Applying

What are the application requirements?

What are the application requirements?

- **FAFSA:** Before students apply for a scholarship, they should complete a Free [Application for Federal Student Aid](#). This determines a student's financial need and is often required by organizations that offer student funding.
- Do you have questions about your financial aid options? You can view helpful videos about financial aid [here](#).
- **Transcripts:** Many scholarship organizations require students to submit transcripts. Often, scholarships will require students to maintain a minimum GPA; thus, a transcript verifies if a student fulfills this requirement.
- **Essay:** Often, students must write an essay for scholarship applications. Typically, the organizations provide guidelines for these essays, including a topic and minimum length. Students can access online resources like the [Online Writing Lab](#) to help them write a strong essay.

Applying

What are the application requirements?

- **Letters of recommendation:** Letters of recommendation are a common component for scholarship applications. For Christian scholarships, students are often asked to provide a letter of recommendation from their church leader. Other applications may require letters from educational or professional contacts familiar with the student's experience and integrity. Students should ask their recommenders to write their letters several weeks in advance of the application deadline.
- **Documentation of college enrollment:** Many scholarship committees require proof that students are enrolled in a school. The requirements for this application component can vary from an acceptance letter to a course schedule for the current semester.

Applying

What are some tips for a successful application?

Students should ensure each scholarship application they submit is complete. To receive a scholarship, students will need to stand out from the other applicants and fulfill all necessary requirements outlined by the organization.

- **Create a Checklist:** Since every scholarship has its own requirements, students can make checklists for each opportunity. Checklists can include the necessary requirements, materials, and any special details or achievements that may give them an edge over other applicants.
- **Make It Personal:** Scholarship committees review countless applications each year. Students can take advantage of the essay or personal statement to create a memorable impression. Approaching a prompt from a new angle, for example, can help an application stand out, thus bettering the chances of being awarded a scholarship.

Applying

What are some tips for a successful application?

- **Proofread Materials:** Students should review their application materials -- résumé, essay, letters of recommendation, and the application itself -- to ensure there are no grammar, spelling, or punctuation mistakes.
- **Submit Early:** Developing a habit of submitting applications early is a good practice. By organizing materials in advance of the due date, students can ensure they have all appropriate documents and that all documents have been filled out correctly. Submitting early can also potentially leave a favorable impression with application committees.

Applying

Scholarship Scams: What to Look out for

Because there are many scholarship [scams](#), students should familiarize themselves with the application process and scholarship organization structures. This research can help students recognize warning signs. Scam organizations often tell students they can "guarantee" aid rewards for a finder's fee. **Under no circumstances will a legitimate scholarship require students to pay or supply banking information.**

Another typical scam offers to help students fill out their FAFSA in exchange for payment. The FAFSA website itself offers free help for students. The sites that charge are not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education, and students are urged to refrain from using those services to prevent financial fraud. Any fraudulent experience should be reported to the U.S. Department of Education and Federal Trade Commission.

African American Scholarships

Scholarships for African American Students

[Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship Program](#)

Who Can Apply: The Jackie Robinson Foundation offers a four-year scholarship to graduating high school seniors attending an accredited four-year college. The Foundation also offers mentorship opportunities and additional funding for study abroad programs.

Amount: Up to \$30,000 over four years

[National Science Foundation Scholarships in STEM Program](#)

Who Can Apply: The National Science Foundation offers many scholarship opportunities for students pursuing STEM education at the graduate or undergraduate level. Students of color are encouraged to apply to the program.

Amount: Varies

[United Negro College Fund Scholarships](#)

Who Can Apply: As the country's largest provider of scholarships to African American students, UNCF awards more than \$100 million annually to over 10,000 students studying all academic subjects.

Amount: Varies

African American Scholarships

Scholarships for African American Students

[Ron Brown Scholar Program](#)

Who Can Apply: African American high school seniors can apply for the Ron Brown Scholar Program, named for the late U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Students pursuing any academic discipline are eligible for this four-year scholarship.

Amount: \$40,000 (\$10,000/year)

[The Herbert Lehman Education Fund Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Named for the former New Yorker Governor and Senator, this scholarship fund awards African American students who demonstrate academic excellence and public service.

Amount: \$8,000 over four years

[Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers](#)

Who Can Apply: African American college writers can apply for this literary scholarship, which requires the submission of original fiction or poetry. Published writers are ineligible for the award.

Amount: Varies

African American Scholarships

Scholarships for African American Students

[The LaGrant Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Undergraduate minority students majoring in marketing can apply for this scholarship, which includes a paid trip to Cincinnati, Ohio, for a career-building workshop.

Amount: \$2,500

[Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program](#)

Who Can Apply: Offered through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, this scholarship awards minority applicants with the chance to study abroad. Applicants must be Pell Grant recipients.

Amount: Varies

[American Bus Association Diversity Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: The ABA offers this award to students from underrepresented groups (including African Americans) who have completed at least one year of college and plan to pursue a career related to tourism, travel, or transportation.

Amount: \$5,000

African American Scholarships

Scholarships for African American Women

[National Press Club Diversity Scholarship for Studies in Journalism](#)

Who Can Apply: The National Press Club offers this scholarship for minority students interested in journalism. Female applicants are also eligible for the Ellen Masin Persina Scholarship, which covers textbook costs.

Amount: \$2,500

[Dr. Julianne Malveaux Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs (NANBPWC) offers this scholarship for African American women at the junior or senior level studying journalism, economics, or any related field.

Amount: Varies

[The Dr. Blanca Moore-Velez Women of Substance Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: The NANBPWC also offers this scholarship for African American women over the age of 35 enrolled at the undergraduate level. Applicants must answer a short essay prompt.

Amount: Varies

[National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Scholarships in STEM Program](#)

Who Can Apply: The NSF offers a variety of generous scholarship opportunities for STEM research and education initiatives, working in particular to support STEM education for female and minority students.

Amount: Varies

African American Scholarships

Scholarships for African American Women

[Agnes Jones Jackson Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: The NAACP awards up to 40 Agnes Jones Jackson scholarships annually, available to member students under the age of 25 who hold a GPA of at least 2.5 (undergraduate) or 3.0 (graduate).

Amount: \$2,000 a year

[Women's Independence Scholarship Program \(WISP\)](#)

Who Can Apply: Intended for female students who have left abusive domestic situations, WISP offers financial support based on financial need and student circumstances, assisting with both tuition and living expenses.

Amount: Varies (Average award is \$2,000)

[National Association of Black Journalists Scholarships](#)

Who Can Apply: African American student pursuing journalism careers can apply for several scholarships offered through the NABJ, including some specifically for women. Applicants must be current NABJ members in good academic standing

Amount: Varies

African American Scholarships

Bible and Ministry Scholarships for African American Students

[Journey Toward Ordained Ministry Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry offers this scholarship for undergraduate or graduate students pursuing ordained ministry. Applicants must be under 30 years and a member of the United Methodist Church.

Amount: \$5,000

[Chaplain Samuel Grover Powell Scholarship Fund](#)

Who Can Apply: The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation offers this scholarship for students preparing for chaplaincy in the military, with preference given to those considering the Air Force.

Amount: Varies

African American Scholarships

Bible and Ministry Scholarships for African American Students

[United Methodist Church General Scholarships](#)

Who Can Apply: The United Methodist Church offers this scholarship to members enrolled at accredited four-year colleges. Applicants must possess a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Amount: \$500-\$1,000

[Leonard M. Perryman Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: This award serves undergraduate students who plan to pursue careers in religious journalism or mass communication. Applicants must be minority students enrolled at the junior or senior level.

Amount: \$2,500

African American Scholarships

Teaching Scholarships for African American Students

[Gates Millennium Scholars Program](#)

Who Can Apply: Minority students from low-income backgrounds can apply for this prestigious scholarship program, which supports all types of academic majors, including teachers. Applicants must be eligible for the Pell Grant.

Amount: Varies

[AFCEA STEM Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: The Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association offers this scholarship to students pursuing STEM education who plan to teach at a K-12 school after graduation.

Amount: \$2,500-\$5,000

[Georgia Association of Educators High School Senior Scholarship for Future Teachers](#)

Who Can Apply: The GAE offers this scholarship to graduating high school seniors who plan to pursue education. Applicants must graduate from a Georgia public high school.

Amount: \$1,000

African American Scholarships

Teaching Scholarships for African American Students

[GAE College Junior/Senior Scholarship for Future Teachers](#)

Who Can Apply: For college education majors enrolled in accredited Georgia colleges, the GAE offers this scholarship, which requires students to complete a short essay on their professional aspirations.

Amount: \$1,000

[Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program](#)

Who Can Apply: Serving education majors across the country, this scholarship program requires applicants to submit proposals for creative implementation of STEM programs in public education.

Amount: Varies

African American Scholarships

Business Scholarships for African American Students

[GE/League of United Latin American Citizens Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: GE offers this scholarship to minority students enrolled at the sophomore level. Applicants must be either business or engineering majors with a GPA of at least 3.25.

Amount: \$5,000

[Surety and Fidelity Industry Intern Scholarship Program](#)

Who Can Apply: Minority students majoring in business, finance, accounting, or insurance/risk management can apply for this scholarship, which also includes an internship component. Applicants must have completed at least 30 undergraduate credits.

Amount: Up to \$5,000

[Ford Go Further Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Ford offers this scholarship to students majoring in finance, marketing, information technology, and purchasing. Applicants must be members of the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA).

Amount: \$3,000

African American Scholarships

Business Scholarships for African American Students

[ExxonMobil NBMBAA Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: MBA candidates focusing on finance or accounting can apply for this scholarship, offered in partnership between ExxonMobil and the National Black MBA Association. Applicants must be NBMBAA members.

Amount: \$5,000

[James E. Webb Internship](#)

Who Can Apply: Offered by the Smithsonian Institution, this combination scholarship/internship serves students of color majoring in business or public administration. Both undergraduates and graduate students can apply for the award.

Amount: \$6,000

African American Scholarships

Grants for African American Students

[American Association of University Women Career Development Grants](#)

Who Can Apply: The AAUW offers these grants to women of color pursuing advanced degrees, with particular consideration given to students seeking to change careers or re-enter the workforce.

Amount: \$2,000-\$12,000

[P.D. Soros Fellowship for New Americans](#)

Who Can Apply: This competitive fellowship serves graduate students who are immigrants or the children of immigrants. Fellows receive scholarship awards covering up to 50% of their graduate tuition (up to \$20,000) along with a generous stipend.

Amount: Tuition coverage up to \$20,000/year; \$25,000 stipend

African American Scholarships

Grants for African American Students

[American Association of University Women Selected Professions Fellowship](#)

Who Can Apply: This fellowship serves women of color pursuing graduate degrees in underrepresented professions, including architecture, computer science, engineering, mathematics, and business administration.

Amount: \$5,000-\$18,000

[Lydia Donaldson Tutt-Jones Memorial Research Grant](#)

Who Can Apply: The African American Success Foundation offers this research grant to graduate students pursuing research in academic success among African American populations. The award offers research funding for one year, disbursed directly to students.

Amount: \$5,000

[American Association of University Women International Fellowship](#)

Who Can Apply: International students who are not permanent U.S. citizens can apply for this fellowship, which fully funds graduate education at an accredited college in the U.S.

Amount: Varies

African American Scholarships

Professional Organizations for African American Students

[National Black Graduate Student Association](#): Supporting graduate students across the country, the NBGSA offers resources including professional development opportunities, mentorship, and career connections.

[National Black Student Union](#): Operating on college campuses around the U.S., the NBSU serves the needs of undergraduate students, offering community building and professional connections.

[United Negro College Fund](#): Offering scholarships, education opportunities, policy advising, and advocacy, the UNCF is one of the nation's premier organizations for African American college students.

African American Scholarships

Professional Organizations for African American Students

[Black Campus Ministries](#): Serving students and faculty all over the country, Black Campus Ministries develops Christian leadership and engages in community building activities.

[National Black MBA Association](#): Supporting African Americans studying business, the NBMBA offers training, mentorship, conferences, networking, and career opportunities for members.

[National Pan-Hellenic Council](#): A consortium of nine historically black fraternities and sororities, the NPHC helps students identify community opportunities and other resources.

Point University: A Respected Christian Institution

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- Bachelor's Programs
- Master's Programs
- Certificates

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