



Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

PointUniversity

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Introduction

Aspiring college students with disabilities may discover that many colleges and universities offer accommodations and services for a broad range of needs. For instance, school office personnel can address assistance and accessibility for all students. Over the past several decades, legislative efforts all over the country have increased access to educational resources and opportunities for students with special needs. [Section 504](#) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990](#), and the [Assistive Technology Act](#) played a major role in providing nondiscriminatory educational access and professional opportunities to all students.

Introduction

According to the [National Council on Disability](#) (NCD), approximately **11% of undergraduate students (two million) report having a disability**. Despite this large number of students seeking higher education, only around 34% complete their bachelor's degree within eight years. The NCD attributes this low graduation rate to inadequate services and support systems for students in need.

Whether or not you have a disability, one of the greatest obstacles of attending college involves education costs. Over the recent decades, tuition rates increased for both public and private institutions. This guide can help students with disabilities find scholarships and grant opportunities.

Applying

Where can I find scholarships for students with disabilities?

Students with disabilities can find many financial aid opportunities through school, church, foundations, and local organizations. The internet makes a great resource for finding niche scholarships as well. Note that each scholarship will likely receive many applications, so apply to multiple opportunities to increase your selection chances.

Your Church: Students active in their community may find that churches often provide scholarship opportunities. However, many scholarships awarded through the church may come with the stipulation of attending a faith-based school.

Foundations: Large organizations like the [Learning Disabilities Foundation](#) and the [Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation](#) offer scholarships to students with disabilities. Visit their websites for an up-to-date list of grant and scholarship opportunities.

Applying

Where can I find scholarships for students with disabilities?

Local Organizations: Like the church, community organizations often contribute scholarship funds for prospective students. See your local community board for a list of businesses and organizations that may provide financial opportunities for higher education.

Professional Associations: Professional organizations make another great resource for students seeking scholarships and financial aid. If you have selected your major or your future professional career, reach out to related professional organizations regarding membership and educational opportunities.

U.S. Department of Labor's [Scholarship Search Tool](#): Using the DOL's search tool, you can sort through over 7,500 scholarships, grants, and other financial aid opportunities, including more than 100 specifically for students with disabilities.

Applying

What are the application requirements?

Scholarship applications often consist of multiple parts, including transcript submission, a personal statement, and proof of college enrollment. Students applying for a disability scholarship will likely need to submit documentation verifying disabilities as well.

Transcripts: Required transcripts must come from all previously attended schools and institutions, including high school and any prior college enrollment.

Essay: Essay topics respond to a provided question or a “personal statement.” Personal statement essays should focus on a triumph or an experience that shaped one's life.

Letters of Recommendation: Scholarship-seekers should submit between one and three letters of recommendation with the application. Letters must come from a teacher or employer who will verify your best qualities.

Documentation of Disability: To apply for a disability scholarship, applicants must submit proof of their disability.

Documentation of College Enrollment: Most scholarships are awarded to individuals currently enrolled in school. However, some funds benefit recent graduates looking to go into a research field.

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](#).

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

General Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

[AAHD Scholarships](#)

Who Can Apply: To be eligible for scholarships from the American Association of Health and Disability, applicants must provide disability documentation and be enrolled full-time in an accredited undergraduate or graduate institution. Only U.S. citizens and legal residents may apply.

Amount: \$1,000

[Mary Switzer Research Fellowships](#)

Who Can Apply: To apply, individuals must have already earned their undergraduate degree or an equivalent level of professional training or research experience. Those with doctorate degrees may not apply for this scholarship.

Amount: Varies

[Wells Fargo Scholarship Program for People with Disabilities](#)

Who Can Apply: To apply, students must be professionally diagnosed with an identified disability. Considerations go to high school seniors or graduates currently enrolled in, or applying to, an accredited associate or undergraduate program.

Amount: \$2,500

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

General Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

[NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarships](#)

Who Can Apply: Scholarships awarded by NBCUniversal benefit students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in media or communications. Applicants must hold documentation of disabilities.

Amount: \$5,625

[Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award](#)

Who Can Apply: Established by Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities, the Fred J. Epstein Youth Achievement Award is offered each year for \$1,000 in recognition of the strengths and accomplishments of high school students under the age of 19 who have been diagnosed with learning disabilities and ADHD. Eligible candidates must demonstrate initiative, determination, talent, and accomplishment in any field, including science, music, art, athletics, or community service.

Amount: \$1,000

[Tommy Tranchin Award](#)

Who Can Apply: Sponsored by the Dallas Foundation, this scholarship benefits students with physical, intellectual, or emotional disabilities. Applicants must reside in North Texas and be seeking a support for an activity that furthers development in an area in which s/he excels or shows promise, such as higher education.

Amount: Up to \$1,500

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

General Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

[BMO Capital Markets Lime Connect Equity Through Education](#)

Who Can Apply: To apply, students must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at an accredited college or university. Consideration goes to applicants pursuing retail banking after graduation.

Amount: \$5,000-\$10,000

[Disability Care Center Disabled Student Scholarships](#)

Who Can Apply: To apply, you must be enrolled full-time at an accredited U.S. college. Applicants must show a 2.5 GPA from their most recent transcript, either high school or college.

Amount: \$500

[CHEA Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities](#)

Who Can Apply: Offered by the California-Hawaii Elks Association, this scholarship is open to applicants who are residents of Hawaii or California. To apply, an applicant must show proof of a physical, neurological, visual, hearing, or speech impairment.

Amount: \$1,000-\$2,000

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Students

[Sertoma Hard of Hearing or Deaf Scholarships](#)

Who Can Apply: Students in their senior year of high school or current college enrollees with significant hearing loss may apply. Applicants must be seeking a four-year degree from an accredited school.

Amount: \$1,000

[AG Bell College Scholarship Program](#)

Who Can Apply: Considerations go to those diagnosed with bilateral hearing loss who attend an accredited four-year school.

Amount: Varies

[Daniel H. Pokorny Memorial Scholarship Awards](#)

Who Can Apply: The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) offers an assortment of scholarships for individuals who have "gone the extra mile for the profession" of interpretation. Opportunities range from those who have served as interpreters for deaf parents, to those who write for deaf publications, or have otherwise contributed to the field. The Daniel H. Pokorny Memorial Scholarship benefits students with bilateral deafness pursuing a career in media and broadcasting. Applicants must be members of RID.

Amount: Varies

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Students

[Graeme Clark Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: This scholarship aids college students with Cochlear Implants. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited undergraduate program and live in the United States or Canada. Graeme Clark was a pioneer in the hearing aid field, developing the first research implant “bionic ear” in 1978. This scholarship honors his contributions to the field.

Amount: \$500

[Minnie Pearl Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: This four-year scholarship for deaf or hearing impaired students can apply to any accredited undergraduate degree. This scholarship will pay up to \$1,000 per year, for four years, for a maximum of \$4,000 per individual so long as that person maintains a 3.0 GPA.

Amount: \$1,000 to \$4,000

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

[ASD Scholarship via the Kelly Law Team](#)

Who Can Apply: This scholarship assists students with autism pursuing higher education. To apply, you must be diagnosed with autism or ASD. Winners need not be enrolled in higher education, but should enroll within one year of winning the scholarship, made possible by the Kelly Law Team in Phoenix, AZ.

Amount: \$1,000

[Google Lime Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Google has partnered with Lime Connect, a nonprofit that supports students with disabilities so they may pursue education in the field of computer science. Candidates must be pursuing a bachelors, Masters, or PhD in computer science and exemplify leadership alongside strong academic performance.

Amount: \$10,000 USD or \$5,000 CAD

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships for Students with Chronic Illness

[Joey Stowell Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Bella Soul is an organization dedicated to helping young adults feel in control of their body and situation no matter the circumstances. Bella Soul offers a variety of scholarships for college students dealing with chronic illness or disability, and the Joey Stowell Scholarship is designed for a college student living with a physical ailment, disease, or disability.

Amount: \$500

[Beth Carew Memorial Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Also offered by Bella Soul, the Beth Carew Scholarship is for applicants diagnosed with an inherited bleeding disorder, such as hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, or a related bleeding disorder.

Amount: \$3,000-\$6,000

[Miranda Braxton Memorial Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Applicants must be diagnosed with nutcracker syndrome and be enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program.

Amount: \$250-500

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships for Students with Learning Disabilities

[Allegra Ford Thomas Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: The Allegra Ford Thomas Scholarship is awarded annually to high school seniors enrolled in or applying to a two-year college, trade school, or vocational training school.

Amount: \$2,500

[Anne and Matt Harbison Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: This scholarship benefits students with a diagnosed language-related disability planning to earn an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited institution.

Amount: \$2,000

[DREAM Institute Higher Education Assistance Program](#)

Who Can Apply: To apply, students must be residents attending school in Oklahoma. Applicants must have diagnosed learning disabilities and be transitioning from a two-year to a four-year degree.

Amount: Varies

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships for Students with Learning Disabilities

[Anne Ford National Learning Disability Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: As a \$10,000 scholarship program that provides recipients \$2,500 each year for four years of undergraduate study, the Anne Ford National Learning Disability Scholarship is available for graduating high school senior with a specific documented learning disability who will be enrolled in a full-time bachelor's degree program in the fall. Eligible applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, demonstrate financial need, and excel as a role model for others who struggle with learning disabilities.

Amount: \$10,000 over four years

[Joseph James Morelli Scholarship Fund](#)

Who Can Apply: This foundation supports high school and college students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and/or dyscalculia who seek to pursue a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics). In 2019, approximately 20% of applicants were awarded a scholarship.

Amount: \$500 to \$2,500

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships for Students with Physical Disabilities

[Incight Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: This scholarship benefits students with a documented disability who attend a trade school, community college, or graduate program. To apply, you must be a resident of Washington, Oregon, or California.

Amount: \$2,500

[Maximum Independence Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Ten scholarships per year go to graduating high school seniors with diagnosed physical disabilities each year. Applicants must plan to attend a two- or four-year school.

Amount: \$1,000

[Microsoft Scholarship Program](#)

Who Can Apply: Applicants must provide proof of a documented disability and be in pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate degree in a STEM field. To receive annual funds, students must remain in good academic standing.

Amount: \$1,000

[Powering Education Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: Established by the Alpha One society, this scholarship aids individuals with disabilities interested in pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Amount: \$2,000

Scholarships Guide for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships for Students with Vision Impairments

[Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards](#)

Who Can Apply: The Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards present up to \$6,000 to blind or visually impaired student members with specific learning disabilities who are pursuing a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from an accredited U.S. institution. Recipients will be chosen based on academic excellence, outstanding leadership, participation in community service for others, letters of recommendation, and financial need.

Amount: Varies

[John Lepping Memorial Scholarship](#)

Who Can Apply: This scholarship aids students with various physical disabilities, including visual impairment. Applicants must reside in New Jersey, New York, or Pennsylvania.

Amount: \$5,000

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Additional Resources

[Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities](#): COSD was founded to create employment opportunities for college students with disabilities. This organization connects higher education professionals, employers, and college students with disabilities through annual conferences and professional networking opportunities.

[Manpower Project Search](#): This school-to-work program combines classroom education, career training, and on-site professional support to those with disabilities entering the workforce.

[ABLE National Resource Center](#): The ANRC comprises a collaboration of supporters looking to assist people with disabilities in earning an education and becoming working professionals.

Scholarships Guide

Additional Resources

[Association on Higher Education and Disability](#): This professional association is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and collaborates with those in higher education committed to ensuring quality learning for students with disabilities.

[The Arc](#): This national association offers services to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The Arc also sponsors education and policy initiatives for people with disabilities.

[Learning Disabilities Association of America](#): Nationally recognized, this nonprofit association ensures empowerment and opportunities to people with disabilities.

Scholarships Guide

Point University: A Respected Christian Institution

Point University is an accredited, private, Christian university that offers a wide range of 100% online programs, including:

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

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