

Is it worth your time to apply for outside scholarships? Absolutely. Outside scholarships can help you reduce the amount you pay out of pocket.

What is an outside scholarship?

Outside scholarships are funds with no affiliation with Grinnell College, another college, or federal or state government. Outside scholarships often come from community organizations, nonprofits, or corporations.

Will receiving outside scholarships impact the amount of financial aid that Grinnell College gives me?

Grinnell College encourages students to apply for outside scholarships by allowing them to keep a significant amount on top of the need-based grant(s) offered by the College. Beginning in 2023-2024, Grinnell College generally does not reduce institutional grants and scholarships when a student receives outside scholarships. Student employment may be reduced in their financial aid notice, but the student may still work.

Occasionally, we may need to reduce institutional need-based grants. This can occur if a student's total financial aid, including funds from outside sources, exceeds the cost of attendance. On rare occasions, an outside scholarship provider's requirements or federal aid may cause a reduction outside of Grinnell's regular policy.

Please note that outside scholarships are also regulated by [NCAA Division III rules \(bylaw 15.2.3.5\)](#).

If you have questions about your particular circumstances, please reach out to the Financial Aid Office at finaid@grinnell.edu or 641-269-3250.

Beware of scams.

Avoid scholarships that charge a fee, offer a money-back guarantee, or ask for your Social Security number, credit card number, or bank account information. Review [Fastweb's Scholarship Scams Tip Sheet \(PDF\)](#) for more information.

How are tuition benefits treated?

A dependent student's parent may be eligible for a tuition benefit from their workplace. Employer benefits that are not through Grinnell College, Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM), or Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) can replace the student contribution and the student's on-campus work expectation. Any tuition benefit beyond these amounts reduces institutional need-based grants dollar for dollar. Tuition remission from Grinnell College, ACM, and GLCA reduces institutional need-based grant eligibility dollar for dollar because these funds come from Grinnell College.

Do outside scholarships and tuition benefits impact federal loan eligibility?

Outside sources of funding may reduce a student's eligibility for Federal Direct Subsidized Loan. They generally will not impact eligibility for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan or Federal Parent PLUS Loan unless total financial aid exceeds the cost of attendance.

How do I report outside scholarships and tuition benefits to the Financial Aid Office?

Students are required to report all outside scholarships and other outside sources of funding to the Financial Aid Office once their outside scholarships and benefits have been finalized. Outside funds will be incorporated into the student's financial aid at the time of notification, and the Financial Aid Office will let the student know if their financial aid from Grinnell is impacted.

Where can I find outside scholarships?

- Your high school guidance counselor
- Organizations with which you are affiliated
- Free scholarship search engines ([find a list on our website](#))