



Scholarship Checklist for New Freshman Students

Western Illinois University
www.wiu.edu/scholarships

- Prepare to do your best!** Review our [scholarship application tips](#).
- Accepted @ WIU? Then you were automatically considered for the [Western Commitment Scholarship](#), which is renewable up to four years!
- But don't forget - all other WIU scholarships require additional application.** Beginning October 12 you can apply for our new freshman scholarship opportunities using the [WIU Scholarship Portal](#).
 - One general scholarship application for most new freshman scholarships.
 - Login using your [WIU ECOM username](#) and password.
 - ACT 24+ (SAT 1160+) with 3.4+ GPA or 3.75 GPA+(No test scores) should submit by **DECEMBER 1** for President's Scholarship consideration.
 - All other new freshman scholarship applications due by **MARCH 15**.
- File your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).** Scholarships and financial aid go hand in hand - students should complete their FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 at www.fafsa.gov. Have questions? Contact the WIU Financial Aid Office for assistance or to schedule an appointment!
- Check for WIU scholarship opportunities available through your [department or college](#).** Opportunities and deadlines vary, so check early to avoid missed deadlines!
- Seek out local scholarship opportunities** through community organizations, employers, etc.
- Search for private scholarship opportunities** - get started by using our [Private Scholarships](#) postings.
 - Use reputable online scholarship searches like [FastWeb](#) and [Collegellinois!](#)
 - [Learn how to spot a scholarship scam](#).
 - Pay attention to deadlines and requirements!
- Give thanks!** If you are awarded a scholarship, it is important to take a moment to thank your scholarship donor. If you're not sure how to get started, check out our tips on [How to Write a Thank You Letter](#).

Now That You're Enrolled...

- After registering for classes, calculate your expected charges** using the [WIU Cost Estimator](#).
 - The first bills of the semester are sent during the first week of August and January.
 - Most scholarships will display on your first billing statement. Monitor your day-to-day university account activity on [STARS](#) by selecting *Financials > Account Detail* and clicking "Account Details".
- Complete the [Direct Deposit Authorization](#) on STARS if you will receive a book award or anticipate a financial aid refund.
- Need to submit a scholarship check?** Checks should be sent to or dropped off at the WIU Scholarship Office, Sherman Hall 308, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455 (M-F, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm).