



Scholarship Office (CC-212)

www.valleycollege.edu

Be Aware of Scholarship Scams

Students searching and applying for external scholarships should be aware of possible scams. Here are some cautionary advices on protecting yourself from possible scholarship scams.

- ✓ Research an organization prior to submitting a scholarship application. Make sure the program or organization is legitimate. There should be clear contact information. Review their website and application materials. If their information lacks professionalism, having typos or poor grammar for example, it may be a scam.
- ✓ Do not pay an organization or individual who claims they will search for and apply for scholarships on your behalf. There are many free and effective scholarship search engines.
- ✓ Be cautious of any organization asking you to pay a fee to apply for the scholarship. Legitimate scholarship agencies want to help students and would not ask students to pay to submit an application.
- ✓ If the organization is asking for your personal financial information such as bank account, credit card or debit card information to secure a scholarship, it is a scam. Never give away personal financial information. Likewise, be cautious if the organization is asking for copies of your tax returns. Make sure the organization is legitimate and black out your social security numbers if you do submit your tax documents.
- ✓ Be cautious when providing your social security number. If the scholarship organization is asking for your social security number we recommend calling them to verify and ask for an exception.
- ✓ Be aware of claims such as "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship," in a contest you never entered. Be cautious of anyone, besides your school, that claims you have won a scholarship for which you never applied.

For more information about scholarship scams visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/scams>