



College Scholarships

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Eagle Ridge Academy Scholarships

Eagle Ridge Academy prepares students to be exemplary and knowledgeable citizens, instills a life-long passion for learning, and teaches them to value self-discipline, respect, perseverance, and achievement, setting them up for success after high school. Eagle Ridge Academy offers three (3) separate \$1,000 scholarships for its graduating seniors interested in pursuing a post-secondary education in a trade school, technical college, college, or university.

[Legacy Scholarship \(Application Open in February\)](#)

This one-time \$1,000 scholarship is aimed at the well-rounded Eagle Ridge Academy senior who best exemplifies academic achievement, community and service, and demonstration of the pillars. Awarded for leaving a “Legacy” at Eagle Ridge Academy. This student will have excelled in academics, service, leadership, character, and presence within the school. The “Legacy” student is one whose presence is missed long after they leave Eagle Ridge Academy due to the contributions they made while they were here.

[Fine Arts Scholarship \(Application Open in February\)](#)

This one-time \$1,000 scholarship is designed specifically for students pursuing post-secondary studies in the fine arts (visual arts or performing arts.) Candidates must be pursuing a career in the arts or arts-related field (i.e. visual arts, musical arts, theatre arts, performing arts).

[Marilyn R. Strand Scholarship \(Application Open in February\)](#)

This one-time \$1,000 Scholarship is nomination-based for a student who embodies the values and spirit of Marilyn R. Strand. Marilyn was an employee of Eagle Ridge Academy who was known for her love for others and genuine joy she possessed. She led with a servant’s heart both in the Eagle Ridge Academy and outside community. Intuitive to other’s feelings and needs, she made everyone she met feel valued and loved in her presence. Marilyn left this earth in August 2018. Through contributions from her family, friends, co-workers, and community, her legacy will live on with the Marilyn R. Strand Scholarship.

View scholarship criteria, timeline, and additional information at

<https://www.eagleridgeacademy.org/scholarships/>.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund in support of Eagle Ridge Academy’s future scholars, [please visit this link](#).

External Scholarships

Almost everyone worries about the cost of college because it can be very expensive. Students and families should make good, strategic decisions about college that take cost into account. Yet it's important to remember that college is a great investment! According to 2015 data by the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), college graduates make, on average, \$24,000 more per year than high school graduates.

A great overview of Financial Aid information: www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Students & Financial Literacy: <https://annuity.org/financial-literacy/students/>.

There are two kinds of aid for students who attend college:

- Need-based aid
- Merit-based aid

Need-based aid can come from the federal and state governments or from colleges. There are two primary tools to apply for need based aid:

FAFSA (<https://fafsa.ed.gov>) is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. All federal and state aid awards are based on the FAFSA. Some things to know:

- The FAFSA application opens on October 1st of the student's senior year. It uses financial information (tax returns) from the prior year. So, for a student attending college in 2017-18, families would report financial information for 2015.
- Students who have divorced parents use financial information from the parent they live with the most (50.1% of the time) and that parent's spouse. If the student lives with both parents equally, it is based on the financial information of the parent who provides more support for the student.

CSS Profile (<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>) is an additional aid application tool used by about 400 private colleges to gather additional information about the family's financial situation.

Minnesota Dream Act Application <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2065> state aid for college for undocumented students.

Merit-based aid comes from the college and is given to students because the college wants them to enroll. Often merit aid is given to students who have grades or test scores at the high end of the applicant pool for that school or special talents that the college values. Some colleges are more generous than others with merit aid. Here are some tips and resources regarding merit aid:

Know how to apply for competitive scholarships given by the college. Some of these are awarded based on your college application. Others require an additional application. Read the websites for the colleges you are applying to!

Know which schools are most generous with merit aid. Below are two lists of colleges that provide significant merit aid:

- [Time.com](#)
- [US News](#)

Estimating College Costs

Because of need based and merit aid, the posted cost of tuition and room and board may not tell you anything about what the college will cost you. Below are some tools for estimating college costs.

Net Price Calculators are required by federal law to be offered by every college on their website. These calculators will ask for financial and academic information to give you estimates of the price of the college after need-based and merit aid. Ask admissions offices how accurate their net price calculators are.

[FAFSA4Caster](#) will give you an estimate of your eligibility for federal financial aid.

Types of Aid

- **Grants** are offered by the federal government, state government, and some colleges based on need. The funds do not have to be paid back.
- **Scholarships** are offered by colleges and private organizations based on student qualifications. They sometimes require an application and essay.
- **Work Study** is a federal aid award that will allow you to earn money for college by working a job on campus. A large portion of the pay for the position is funded by the federal government.
- **Loans** are available from the government and from private lenders.
- **Federal Subsidized Loans** are need based and the government pays for the interest while the student is in school. The loans are eligible for income-based repayment and other programs.
- **Federal Unsubsidized Loans** are not need based. Every student is eligible for federal unsubsidized Stafford loans that start at \$5500 for freshmen. Interested students must complete a FAFSA. The loans are eligible for income-based repayment and other programs.
- **Private Loans** are offered by banks and eligibility is determined by credit score. They require a co-signer; the interest rates are higher, and they aren't eligible for special repayment programs.
- **Education Tax Credits**
Education tax credits are available to families in the year after education costs have been paid. From the IRS:
- [Education tax credits](#) can help offset the costs of education. The American Opportunity (Hope Credit extended) and the Lifetime Learning Credit are education credits you can subtract in full from the federal income tax, not just deduct from taxable income.

[Financial Aid Night: Financing A College Education \(PowerPoint\)](#)

Searching for Outside Scholarships

The most successful students set aside time each week to search and apply for scholarships. Consider making a "scholarship" email address so that when you register on these websites, you don't clog up your inbox with their messages.

- [Peterson's](#) has scholarship search filters and many other college tools.
- [UNIGO](#) has many tools including a scholarship list that students can browse and scholarship-matching based on a profile.
- [Fastweb](#) has long been the go-to site for scholarships. You must make an account and a profile.
- [Cappex](#) needs you to register. It has a "What Are My Chances" tool that calculates the odds that you'll get into a certain college before you apply.
- [Scholarships.com](#) has a very large database updated daily. It is searchable without a profile, but you can make one.
- [Lendedu.com](#)

Reduced Out of State Tuition Options

Reciprocity: Minnesota has agreements with neighboring states to provide lower tuition for Minnesota residents to attend public colleges and universities in those states. This is called reciprocity. Typically, non-resident admission fees and tuition are reduced (or eliminated) if you're a reciprocity student. Minnesota has reciprocity agreements with [Wisconsin](#), [North Dakota](#), and [South Dakota](#). It also has an agreement with the [Canadian province of Manitoba](#) and a limited agreement with [Iowa Lakes Community College](#) in northwestern Iowa.

Midwest Student Exchange: Students from Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wisconsin may be eligible for tuition reductions at certain Midwest public and private schools and programs of study through the [Midwest Student Exchange Program](#).