

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 to Grinnell College. 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 resources of financial assistance by allowing them to keep a significant amount on top of the need-based grant(s) offered by the College. In most cases, Grinnell College allows students to receive up to \$20,000 over four years before institutional need-based grants are reduced. If a student receives more than \$20,000 over four years, their need-based grants from Grinnell will be reduced dollar-for-dollar.

Occasionally, we may need to reduce institutional need-based grants when a student receives less than \$20,000 over four years. 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) are treated the same as outside scholarships. Tuition remission from Grinnell College, ACM, and GLCA is not treated like an outside scholarship and instead reduces institutional need-based grant eligibility dollar for dollar. This is because these tuition remission funds come from Grinnell College.

Do outside scholarships impact federal loan eligibility?

Outside scholarships 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 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](#))

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