

# NEWSLETTER

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## FINANCIAL AID OFFICE SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITE TO BE USER FRIENDLY

The Financial Aid Office is making the process of finding a scholarship easier for you by creating a searchable database that will allow you to find out about scholarships that match your individual interests and qualifications. Information such as year in school, major, GPA, and hometown are among some of the criteria used for the search.

The searchable web site saves you time because it sorts through all of the University's scholarships. It will identify scholarships that match your skills and interests so you can make further inquiries and complete applications. SIUC's current list of scholarships is fairly extensive and time consuming for students to review.

"What we're hoping to do with the searchable scholarships is to take all the same information that is already there and make it easier for students searching for a scholarship by providing one list of scholarship opportunities," said Billie Jo Hamilton, director of Financial Aid.

The searchable database is expected to be online in early October.

To access the scholarship website, visit <http://www.siu.edu/~fao/scholarships/index.htm>



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### Special Points of Interest

- Have you completed your Master Promissory Note for the Stafford Loan and Perkins Loan? Visit the Financial Aid office website at [www.siu.edu/~fao](http://www.siu.edu/~fao) for more information.
- Forgot your SalukiNet pin? Call Records at 618-453-2993.

# TIPS ON APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

- ◆ **Apply only if you are eligible.** Read all the scholarship requirements carefully. Make sure you are eligible before you send in your application.
- ◆ **Complete the application in full.** If a question does not apply to you, note that on the application. Do not leave a question blank. Be sure to supply additional supporting materials, including transcripts, letters of recommendation, and essays.
- ◆ **Follow directions.** Provide everything that is required. However, do not supply things that are not requested--you could be disqualified.
- ◆ **Neatness counts.** Always type your application, or if you must print do so neatly and legibly. Make a couple of photocopies of all forms before you fill them out. Use the copies as working drafts as you develop your application packet.
- ◆ **Write an essay that makes a strong impression.** The key to writing a strong essay is to be personal and specific. Include concrete details and make your experience come alive: the who, what, where, and when of your topic. The simplest experience can be monumental if you honestly present how you were affected.
- ◆ **Watch all deadlines.** To help keep yourself on track, impose your own deadline that is at least two weeks prior to the official deadline. Use buffer time to make sure everything is ready on time. Do not rely on extensions as very few scholarship providers allow them at all.
- ◆ **Make sure your application gets where it needs to go.** Put your name (Student ID number, if applicable) on all pages of the application and any supporting materials.
- ◆ **Keep a back-up file in case anything goes wrong.** Before submitting your application make a copy of the entire packet. If your application goes astray, you will be able to reproduce it quickly.
- ◆ **Give it a final 'once-over'.** Proofread the entire application carefully. Be on the lookout for misspelled words or grammatical errors. Ask a friend, teacher, or parent to proofread it as well.
- ◆ **Ask for help if you need it.** If you have problems with the application do not hesitate to call the funding organization.
- ◆ **It is also important to make sure your letters of recommendation are addressed** to the organization whose scholarship you are applying for, and that the letters are current.

*The best time to start researching scholarships is September or October.*

*Most scholarships are awarded in February or March*

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

### Searching for Scholarships

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

[www.iefaf.org](http://www.iefaf.org)

[www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com)

[www.finaid.org/calculators-](http://www.finaid.org/calculators-)

This site will allow you to calculate a potential Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is the amount the family is expected to pay toward college costs.

[www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)-Selective Service System site allow male students to register online with Selective Service.

[www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com)-The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) provides grants and scholarships to qualifying Illinois residents. The programs that are administered by ISAC are highlighted on the web site.

### Locating Personal Information

[www.nslids.ed.gov](http://www.nslids.ed.gov)-With your Federal Personal Identification Number (PIN), students can review their individual loan and Pell history.

### Locating general information

[www.siu.edu/~fao](http://www.siu.edu/~fao)-The Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) Financial Aid Office web site offers both general and SIUC-specific financial aid information. There are links to these web sites listed here, as well as other financial aid and SIUC sites. SIUC on-campus student employment, Undergraduate Assistantships and scholarship listings are also posted here.



## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Looking for a job? Check out the SIUC student Employment office's website at [www.siu.edu/~fao/jobs/index.htm](http://www.siu.edu/~fao/jobs/index.htm). Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the site makes job searching easy. Students can review Federal Work Study or non-Federal Work-Study jobs, having access to all the latest job openings.

SIUC encourages you to have your earnings processed as Electronic Direct Deposit (EDD). You have two options:

- 1) You may choose to have your student pay deposited into a personal checking or savings account at a designated banking institution.
- 2) You may choose to have your student pay deposited to Saluki Cash Visa Card. The turn around time to establish an account with Illinois National Bank is 3 weeks. For more information visit [www.SalukiCash.com](http://www.SalukiCash.com)
  - a. Students enrolled in Saluki

Cash for deposit of their Bursar Refund Only, will need to authorize SIUC to send their Student Pay EDD to their Saluki Cash Card.

b. Students enrolled in Saluki Cash for deposit of both Bursar Refund and Student Employee Pay need only certify that they have enrolled in Saluki Cash and have activated their card for deposit of their Student Employee Payroll.

**SIUC - FINANCIAL AID OFFICE**

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Woody Hall, B-Wing, 3rd floor-Mail Code 4702  
900 S. Normal Avenue  
Carbondale IL 62903

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Fax: 618-453-7305  
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*Invest in yourself*

We are on the web  
[www.siu.edu/~fao](http://www.siu.edu/~fao)

*The Financial Aid office (FAO) supports Southern Illinois University Carbondale in the mission of providing educational opportunities for a diverse population. Assistance is provided to students and their families in the financing of a college education through the administration of various federal, state, institutional and private financial aid programs. Financial support is extended through programs offering grants, loans, and student employment opportunities. It is the goal of FAO that students should be able to obtain a college education regardless of family financial strength.*

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR EVENTS

October Statement of Account mailed  
Thanksgiving Break  
November Statement of Account mailed  
Fall 2007 Final Exams  
December Statement of Account mailed

October 15  
November 18-25  
November 19  
December 10-14  
December 17