

# DON'T LOSE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP!

*Congrats!* You applied for and received scholarships to help pay for college. Understand the terms of your scholarships so you won't lose that hard earned money!

## FIRST:

Determine if any of your scholarships are **renewable**, meaning they will be automatically awarded if you meet or exceed the predetermined requirements. Answer these questions about your award: *How often is scholarship eligibility reviewed? When does the review occur? Do I need to reapply for renewal? How often? What info do I need to submit?*

## NEXT:

Make sure you meet or exceed the requirements to keep your scholarships. Keep track of your eligibility semester-to-semester. **Understand the repercussions of the decisions you make in college**

### ● Meet or Exceed the GPA Requirement

Many scholarships **require a minimum GPA** to be awarded and renewed (the required GPA may differ to be renewed). If you're falling below the minimum GPA, meet with your instructors and academic advisor to see what you can do about your grades. If possible, take extra classes in the summer or the following semester to improve your GPA.

### ● Take Enough Credit Hours

Some scholarships require recipients to be **full-time students or take a certain number of credit hours per academic year**. If you must drop a class, be sure to either replace it immediately (if possible) or retake it later. Discuss the number of credit hours required for your scholarships with your academic advisor when signing up for courses each semester to stay on track.

### ● Changing Your Major Affects Eligibility

If you were awarded a scholarship from a specific academic department, area of study, or for a major of a certain field, **changing your major may put that scholarship at risk**. It's okay to want to study something else, just make sure you'll be okay without that scholarship if lost due to the change.

### ● Think Before You Act

If you get in trouble on a college campus for cheating, plagiarism, stealing, underage drinking, drugs, etc., **your scholarship could be at risk**. Also, think before you post on social media. Even outside scholarship providers could find out about your actions and revoke your awards.

### ● Changing Colleges Affects Eligibility

You may have received scholarships that are specific to the college you are attending. **If you leave that college to go to another college, the scholarships don't get to tag along, too**. However, the college you will be attending might have awards for transfer students or other categories including field of study or financial need.

### ● Spend the Scholarship Money Wisely

Scholarship providers might state exactly how they want you to use the money. Some examples would be **an award to be used for tuition only or a scholarship just for books**. If you spend the money on something other than what is specified, it could be revoked. Make sure you know the terms before spending the scholarship money.

## OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER:

If you take **time off from school** due to an illness, to work or save money, for study-abroad, etc., research the implications on your financial aid. Ensure you're **acquiring the community service hours** (if required) for your scholarship. Send academic, athletic, or philanthropic **progress reports** to the provider, if needed. Fulfill **post-baccalaureate service requirements** (teaching or military service).

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOSE A SCHOLARSHIP:

Try **not to panic**. If you lost a scholarship due to not meeting eligibility requirements, **there is often an appeals process**. Find out the process and follow it to the letter. **Document extenuating circumstances** (illness, lost job, family emergency, etc.). If your award runs out, you can **appeal for an extension or apply again for a possible second round of funding**. Even if you lose eligibility for one scholarship, it doesn't mean you're ineligible for other opportunities. **Search for other scholarships and apply**.