

## SCHOLARSHIP OPTIONS

### University of Massachusetts Amherst

Need based - need based scholarships are awarded to students in degree seeking programs based on the information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To apply complete the FAFSA there are two important steps:

1. Go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and apply for a Federal Student Aid PIN that will allow you to electronically sign the FAFSA. Both student and parent each apply for their pin numbers separately.
2. Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and complete the FAFSA.

Merit based - at the time an admissions application is reviewed a student may be offered a scholarship. Those awardees will receive a letter from admission and the scholarship will appear on their financial award letter.

After a student is enrolled it is important that the student check the web site of the college they are enrolled to see what scholarships might be available. Normally every January or February your college will have an application and information available for departmental and endowment awards. Another search engine to find some of these departmental funds is: <http://www.massachusetts.edu/scholarships>

Examples: College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

[www.umass.edu/sbs](http://www.umass.edu/sbs)

College of Natural Resources and the Environment

[www.umass.edu/nre](http://www.umass.edu/nre)

Need/Merit - Some departmental awards and/or endowment awards will look at both merit and need. These again are usually awarded by the individual colleges. There are a small number that are not targeted to individual colleges and those are awarded by the financial aid office. The aid office maintains a list of students that have inquired about the miscellaneous sources and each summer they will try to match the students with the specific requirements of the funds. A few examples of some of the specifics we are looking for: what is your home town? Are you active in RSO's on campus? Is your parent a Vietnam Vet? Etc.....

To get on this list contact Anne B. Peramba at [peramba@finaid.umass.edu](mailto:peramba@finaid.umass.edu) or stop by my office at 243 Whitmore Administration Building.

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Outside Scholarships - Searching for outside scholarships can be a very frustrating exercise but very rewarding when successful. I strongly encourage you to seek whatever sources might be available. All of these sources are used to fill unmet need the university could not meet or they may be used to reduce self-help (loan or work). To find out if an outside resource will affect your need based package contact the Financial Aid Office.

I would suggest that you begin with sources made available in your home community. Often times your parent's place of employment may have scholarship opportunities. Your high school guidance office may be able to give you some direction for available local funds. There are a number of on-line search engines such as [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and <https://studentaid2.ed.gov/getmoney/scholarship/v3browse.asp#>

*As always, before giving any personal information on the web review their privacy policy. Pay particular attention to the sharing of your personal information.*