

# 2020-21 Scholarship Checklist for Returning Students

Western Illinois University  
[www.wiu.edu/scholarships](http://www.wiu.edu/scholarships)



- Log on to the [WIU Scholarship Portal](#) and submit the General Application.**
  - Login using your [WIU ECOM username](#) and password.
  - The General Application will automatically match you with available scholarships.
  - Login after each semester to see updated scholarship recommendations!
- Review our [Scholarships Requiring a Separate Application](#) – these are WIU scholarships NOT available through the WIU Scholarship Portal.**
  - Pay attention to deadline dates and where to submit your completed application(s).
- Check for WIU scholarship opportunities available through your [department or college](#).** Opportunities and deadlines vary, so check early to avoid missed deadlines!
- Seek out hometown scholarship opportunities** through community organizations, local employers, etc.
- Search for private scholarship opportunities** – get started by using our [Private Scholarship](#) postings.
  - Use reputable online scholarship searches like [FastWeb](#) or [CollegeIllinois!](#)
  - [Learn how to spot a scholarship scam](#).
- Watch your WIU email account** – scholarship results will be emailed within 4 weeks of the scholarship deadline date.
- Did you receive a renewable scholarship? Keep track of your requirements!** It is your responsibility to remember and meet renewal requirements in order to maintain scholarship eligibility.
- Give thanks!** If you are awarded a scholarship, it is important to take a moment and thank your scholarship donor. If you're not sure how to get started, check out our tips on [How to Write a Thank You Letter](#).

## And Don't Forget...

- Prepare to do your best!** Review our [scholarship application tips](#).
- File your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).** Scholarships and financial aid go hand in hand – students should complete their FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Have questions? Contact the [WIU Financial Aid Office](#) for assistance or to schedule an appointment!
- After registering for classes, calculate your expected charges** using the [WIU Cost Estimator](#).
  - Each semester, monitor your day-to-day university account activity on [STARS](#) by selecting *Financials > Account Detail* and clicking “Account Details”.
- Complete a [Direct Deposit Authorization](#) on STARS if you will receive a book award or anticipate a financial aid refund.
- Need to submit a scholarship check?** Scholarship checks should be sent to or dropped off at the WIU Scholarship Office, Sherman Hall 308, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455 (M-F, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm).
- Mark your calendar for October 1, 2020!**
  - 2021-22 scholarship opportunities will open on the [WIU Scholarship Portal](#).
  - 2021-22 FAFSA application will be available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).