



# PennState Health Children's

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## COLLEGE PREP GUIDE

This guide was created to assist in college prep!

There are several scholarship opportunities for you to consider. Scholarships are available for individuals in current treatment, cancer survivors, and family members that have been affected by cancer. Some of the scholarships are disease specific or only available to certain geographic areas. Others are not cancer specific, but maybe worth researching. Scholarships opportunities are available for full time or part-time students. Students entering either undergraduate or graduate programs at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational- technical/trade school.

If you find that any of the information is out of date or not accurate, please let us know so we can continue to update our information.

If you are followed by a provider at Penn State Health Children's Hospital, please reach out to your assigned social worker if you are requiring any medical confirmation letters or references



# Making the **RIGHT** Transition into College

From Picking a School to Paying for it – A Guide for Cancer Survivors

## **RIGHT**Funding

There are many forms of financial aid based on need, merit, talent, or other qualifications. Your high school guidance counselor is a great resource for the kinds of financial aid you may qualify for. Know your deadlines.

As a cancer survivor, there are dozens of funding opportunities available to you. In addition to FAFSA (federal student aid), loans and work study, you may be eligible for a variety of highly specialized scholarships and grants available only to survivors. These can be general, such as NCCS's "Beyond the Cure Ambassador Scholarship" or specific to certain types of childhood cancers. Do your research – there are plenty of funding sources to which you can apply. In addition to cancer related

scholarships, you may want to think outside the "cancer box." When applying for a cancer related scholarship you're competing against hundreds of cancer survivors. Consider a scholarship in an area of interest such as band or a local community based organization that is not cancer related; your survivorship story may stand out.

Each application will request different information – know the organization, know your deadlines, include all the information requested and take your time completing the application. When submitting an essay, tell your survivorship story in your own words and have someone proof what you wrote.

## **RIGHT**Information

Being your biggest advocate starts with knowing your rights and your records. If you identify as having a disability, or a late effect that may impact your learning, you have rights! Talk to your doctor to see if you qualify. Some of the laws that protect you are listed below; for more information, talk to your high school guidance counselor or contact NCCS.

### Your Laws

1. **Rehabilitation Act of 1973**
2. **Americans with Disabilities Act**
3. **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

### Your Records

For all students entering college, it's important to have your records in order. These include high school transcripts, SAT and ACT test scores and letters of recommendation (plan ahead for these – be sure to allow at least four-six weeks for letters to be written).

As a cancer survivor, you will also want to have copies of your medical history on file. Talk to your doctor to obtain the necessary documentation in case you choose to file for extended time, other disability-related services at college or in case a medical situation develops.

**NOTE:** If you have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan, disclosure is NOT required unless accommodations are requested. Before you graduate, request an up-to-date copy of your IEP as well as a current assessment – it's always better to have an IEP or 504 plan in place and up-to-date (even if you're not receiving services) than to back-track once in college.

## **RIGHT**Resources

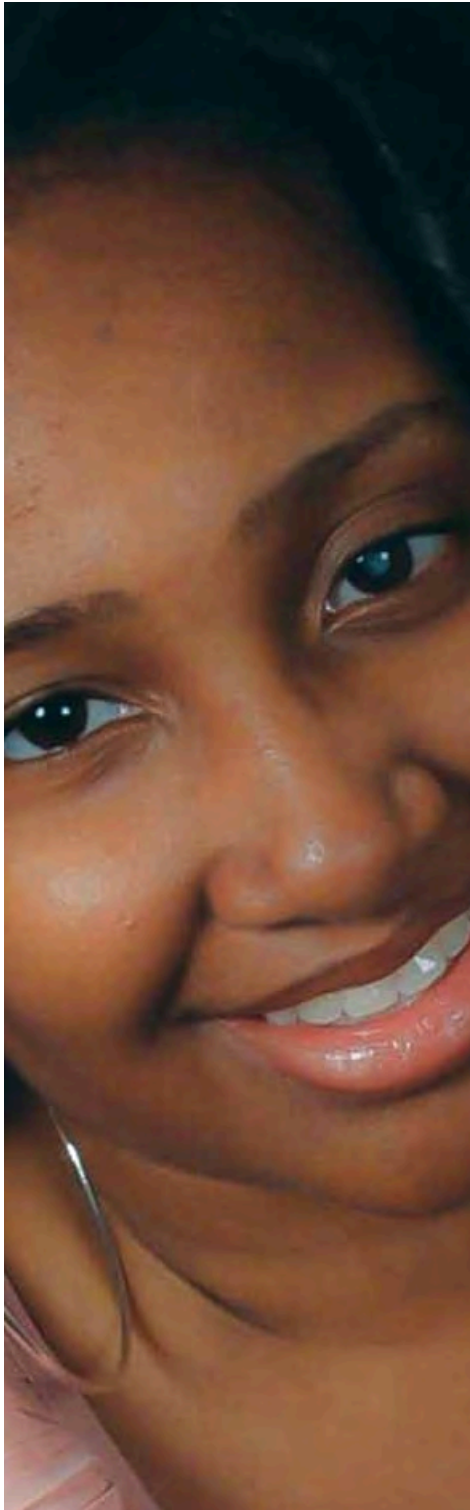
Surviving cancer was tough. Surviving the transition into college is, too. Finding your place on campus is something that will take time; go at your own pace, and expect a few stumbles, but be sure to enjoy the ride along the way. The transition may be tough, but college will be the time of your life - trust us!

And remember – the NCCS is here to help! Reach out to us about anything at any time. We're here for you on the good days, the bad days and the "I just need to talk" days. We have your best interest in mind and want to see you succeed!

Visit the [NCCS.org](http://NCCS.org) and [beyondthecure.org](http://beyondthecure.org) for additional resources and information.

Funded through the generosity of

The National Children's Cancer Society  
500 North Broadway, Suite 800  
Saint Louis, MO 63102  
p 314.241.1600 f 314.241.1996  
[theNCCS.org](http://theNCCS.org)



# Cancer-Related Scholarship Opportunities

## #RAREis Scholarship Fund:

<https://everylifefoundation.org/rare-scholarship/#toggle-id-1>

Contact: [rareis@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:rareis@scholarshipamerica.org)

Phone (507) 931-0799 Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be anyone over the age of 17 or older who has been diagnosed with a rare disease, regardless of treatment status. Applicants must plan to enroll full-time or part-time in an undergraduate or graduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical/trade school for the Fall 2025 semester.

Financial Award: \$5,000

Application Period: Anticipate applications can be accepted beginning mid-March 2025 until mid-April 2025

## Cameron Siemers Foundation for Hope:

<http://www.cameronsiers.org/life-grants/>

Contact: Cameron Siemers Foundation for Hope PO Box 1074 Los Alamitos, CA 90720 Eligibility Requirements: Provides grants to young adults ages 18-28 who are diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, including cancer. The "life grants" are intended to fulfill a dream or pay for a project that will make a difference in the recipient's life and the lives of others. This award is focused on community service.

Financial Award: Up to \$5,000

Application Period: The application period is rolling.

## Cancer For College:

<https://cancerforcollege.org/>

Contact: (760) 599-5096

Eligibility Requirements: Must be a cancer survivor. Numerous scholarships are available, and applicants only need to complete 1 application for all available scholarships.

Financial Award: Varies

Application Period: November 1st, 2024, until January 31st, 2025.

## Children's Brain Tumor Foundation:

<https://cbtf.org/scholarships/>

Contact: [bjones@cbtf.org](mailto:bjones@cbtf.org)

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must have been (or have a sibling) diagnosed with a brain or spinal cord tumor before the age of 21 and reside in the United States or Canada. Two rounds of scholarships are awarded each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Applicants must be attending or preparing to attend two-year, four-year, graduate and technical schools.

Financial Award: Varies

Application Period: Applications can be submitted beginning October 2025.

Children's Cancer Cause:

<https://www.childrenscancercause.org/scholars>

Contact: [info@childrenscause.org](mailto:info@childrenscause.org)

Eligibility Requirements: TBD

Financial Award: Varies

Application Period: Application period to open in January 2025

CURE-Cancer Support Scholarship:

<https://www.lepfoundation.org/applications>

Contact: [theleapfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:theleapfoundation@gmail.com)

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants were diagnosed with cancer and whose disease and related treatments placed a significant financial burden on them and their families. Applicants must be accepted for admission at an institution of high education, e.g. college, community college, university, or vocational school.

Financial Award: \$5,000

Application Period: The anticipated due date is June 1st, 2025

Evan Foundation:

<https://www.theevanfoundation.org/scholarship-information>

Contact: [info@theevanfoundation.org](mailto:info@theevanfoundation.org)

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be high school seniors who have survived a high-risk pediatric cancer and accepted into a four-year undergraduate institution. Financial award: \$2,500.

Each scholarship is renewed annually if the program's award criteria are met. This allows for a total of \$10,000 in support for four years of undergraduate coursework for each winner

Application Period: March 15th, 2025, until May 1st, 2025

Gabriela Blanco College Scholarship:

<https://scholarships.sofiashope.org/>

Contact: [info@sofiashope.org](mailto:info@sofiashope.org)

Eligibility Requirements: The applicant must be a sibling of a childhood cancer survivor (does not have to be receiving treatment to qualify), or of a patient who is currently diagnosed with childhood cancer and is in treatment. Siblings must live in the same household as a childhood cancer patient, specifically during their treatment. Siblings of childhood cancer patients who have not survived the diagnosis or their treatment are also eligible. The applicant is enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program in the United States.

Financial Award: \$2,000

Application Period: January 1st, 2025, until March 15th, 2025

Han C. Choi Scholarship:

<https://www.napabalawfoundation.org/scholarships>

Contact: [info@NAPABALawFoundation.org](mailto:info@NAPABALawFoundation.org)

Eligibility Requirements: Applicant must be a 1L or 2L law student who exhibits academic excellence, leadership, volunteerism, and mentorship experiences, and demonstrates an interest in AAPI civic issues. Special consideration will also be given to applicants who have been adversely affected by cancer (as a survivor, or family member of a victim or survivor)

Financial Award: \$5,000

Application Period: The anticipated due date is mid-April 2025

Hydrocephalus Association:

<https://www.hydroassoc.org/scholarship/>

Contact: [info@hydroassoc.org](mailto:info@hydroassoc.org)

Phone: 1-888-598-3789

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be 17 of age, or older and have a hydrocephalus diagnosis. Scholarship funds must be used for educational purposes such as a two or four-year college, a high school post-graduate year to prepare for college, technical or trade school, an accredited employment-training program, or a post-graduate program. The scholarship funds may be used for tuition, books, housing, or an expense directly related to the education experience.

Financial Award: \$1,000

Application Period: Applications can be submitted starting January 2025.

Faith, Hope, and Love Jesus Inc:

[https://faithhopeandlovejesus.org/college\\_scholarship](https://faithhopeandlovejesus.org/college_scholarship)

Contact: [scholarships@faithhopeandlovejesus.org](mailto:scholarships@faithhopeandlovejesus.org)

Eligibility Requirements: Must have or have had a blood disorder or cancer diagnosed before the age of 18.

Financial Award: \$500

Application Period: Due date is May 1st, 2025

The Izzy Foundation:

<https://theizzyfoundation.org/scholarship/>

Contact: [hello@theizzyfoundation.org](mailto:hello@theizzyfoundation.org)

Eligibility Requirements: Must be a current pediatric cancer patient, a childhood cancer survivor, and/or a sibling under the age of 25 (bereaved siblings are welcome to apply). Applicants must have been diagnosed by the age of 18 with a pediatric cancer

Financial Award: \$500

Application Period: March 1st, 2025 until May 1st, 2025

John Foy & Associates Strong Arm Leukemia Scholarship:

<https://www.johnfoy.com/about/scholarship/strong-arm-leukemia-scholarship/>

Contact Information: 3343 Peachtree Rd NE #350 Atlanta, GA 30326

Eligibility Requirements: The applicant must be a college student who has battled leukemia or whose life has been affected by leukemia.

Financial Award: \$1000 scholarships are awarded to one undergraduate student and one graduate student.

Application Period: The application period opens on January 1st, 2025.

Julia's Grace Foundation:

<https://www.juliasgracefoundation.org/scholarship>

Contact: Julia's Grace Foundation P.O. Box 1081 Royersford, PA 19468

Eligibility Requirements: The scholarship program is open to childhood cancer survivors and their siblings (siblings of survivors or those who did not survive). Scholarship awards can be used for post-high school training programs or education. Applicants must be residents of Montgomery, Bucks, Lehigh, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania, and Burlington, Camden, and Mercer counties in New Jersey.

Financial Award: \$1,000

Application Period: The anticipated due date is March 1st, 2025

Kisses for Kyle Foundation:

Contact Information: (267) 210-1489

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants are students who have had cancer at some point in their childhood and who are now pursuing a college degree that will prepare them for helping children who, like they once did, are facing a cancer diagnosis. Examples of such careers include pediatric oncology, nursing, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and biomedical research

Financial Award: Unknown

Application Period: The anticipated due date is May 31st, 2025

LLS Scholarship for Blood Cancer Survivors:

<https://www.lls.org/lls-scholarship-blood-cancer-survivors>

Contact: [Scholarship@LLS.org](mailto:Scholarship@LLS.org)

Eligibility Requirements: Applicant must be a blood cancer patient or survivor diagnosed at age 25 or younger. Applicant must be attending or planning to attend a virtual or in-person vocational, trade, two-year, or four-year undergraduate education. The scholarship cannot be used for graduate-level programs.

Financial Award: Up to \$7,500 award.

Application Period: Applications are due by October 31st, 2024

Mesothelioma Cancer Alliance:

<https://www.mesothelioma.com/scholarship/>

Contact: [scholarships@mesothelioma.com](mailto:scholarships@mesothelioma.com)

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must have battled cancer at any point in their lives, not limited to mesothelioma, or who have a parent, sibling, immediate family member, or close friend who has battled or is currently fighting cancer. Applicants must be enrolled full-time at an accredited two-year or four-year university, community college, junior college, or graduate degree program in the United States. Applicants are required to have a GPA of 3.2 or higher  
Financial Award: The scholarship amount is \$4,000.

Application Period: Applications are due by March 31st, 2025.

Michael Hunter Memorial Scholarship:

<https://oc-cf.academicworks.com/opportunities/2188>

Contact: N/A  
Eligibility Criteria: Graduating high school senior, community college, and four-year university students who are Leukemia/Lymphoma patients or survivors and/or are children of non-surviving Leukemia/Lymphoma. The student must be enrolled as a full-time student. Applicant must have a GPA of 3.0.

Financial Award: Individual awards range from \$2,000 up to \$5,000

Application Period: Anticipated period begins mid-January 2025 until mid-March 2025

National Children's Cancer Society (Beyond the Cure Scholarships):

<https://thenccs.org/scholarship/>

Contact: (314) 241-1600

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be a survivor of cancer. Financial Award: The award amount varies  
Application Period: January 1st, 2025, until March 31st, 2025

National Collegiate Cancer Foundation:

<https://collegiatecancer.org/scholarships/>

Contact: [info@collegiatecancer.org](mailto:info@collegiatecancer.org).

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be a cancer survivor or a current patient. Applicants must be between the ages of 18-35. An exception will be made if you are 17 and entering college in the fall following application. Applicants must attend or plan to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational institution to pursue an associate, bachelor's, master's, doctorate, or certificate. Financial Award: The scholarship amount is \$1,000

Application Period: Applications can be submitted beginning March 2025

Patient Advocate Foundation:

<https://www.patientadvocate.org/connect-with-services/apply-for-a-scholarship/>

Contact: [scholarship@patientadvocate.org](mailto:scholarship@patientadvocate.org)

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be under the age of 25 and have been diagnosed with and/or been actively treated for cancer or a chronic disease within the past five years.

Financial Award: PAF's Scholarship for Survivor Undergraduate scholars are eligible to receive a scholarship of \$3,000 per school year (\$1500 per semester: Fall/Spring) for four consecutive years (provided funding is available) until the student receives a maximum of \$12,000 or graduates with a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first.

Application Period: Applications are due by March 7th, 2025

Paul Bernot Memorial Foundation:

<https://paulbernotfoundation.org/scholarship>

Contact: [foundation@paulbernot.org](mailto:foundation@paulbernot.org)

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must have a diagnosis of cancer or be a cancer survivor. Applicants must be completing or have completed high school successfully with a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants must be accepted and enrolled as a student in at least 2 classes (typically 6 credit hours) at an accredited college, university, or trade school in the United States for the fall 2025 academic semester

Financial Award: \$3,000

Application Period Anticipated due date is May 15th, 2025

Ruth Cheatham Foundation:

<https://www.ruthcheathamfoundation.org/scholarship-info>

Contact: [Mail@ruthcheathamfoundation.org](mailto:Mail@ruthcheathamfoundation.org)

Phone: (972) 897-3371

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants are open to young adults ages 17-26 whom been diagnosed with cancer (current or in the past). Applicants must be enrolled or accepted in an accredited undergraduate college, university, or trade school. Applicants must be between the ages of 17-26 Applicant must be a full-time student (24 credit hours a year).

Financial Award: Scholarships range from \$2,000-\$5,000

Application Period: The application period will open in December 2025

Scott J. Reisser Memorial Scholarship:

<https://makingheadway.org/scholarship/>

Contact: [Jennifer@makingheadway.org](mailto:Jennifer@makingheadway.org)

Phone: (914) 238-8384

Eligibility Criteria: Applicant must be a brain or spinal cord tumor survivor (diagnosed before the age of 18). Applicant must reside in the New York City metropolitan area (including New Jersey or Connecticut). Applicant must be admitted to or be currently attending a two-or four-year college or vocational program.

Financial Award: Awards can be up to \$5,000

Application Period: The anticipated due date is May 1st, 2025



Simon Cancer Foundation:

<http://www.thescf.org/Scholarships.html>

Contact: [thescf@gmail.com](mailto:thescf@gmail.com)

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be enrolled in a four-year university or college in Fall 2025. The university or college must be in the United States. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Graduate students are eligible to apply.

Financial Award: The award amount is unknown at this time.

Application Period: TBD

Sofia Blanco College Scholarships

<https://scholarships.sofiashope.org/>

Contact: [info@sofiashope.org](mailto:info@sofiashope.org)

Eligibility Criteria: The applicant must be a childhood survivor (does not have to be receiving treatment to qualify), or someone currently diagnosed with childhood cancer. The applicant is enrolled or accepted for enrollment to an accredited undergraduate or graduate program in the United States.

Financial Award: \$2,000

Application Period: Application period begins January 1st, 2025, and closes March 15th, 2025

Sophie Malaviya Memorial Scholarship:

<https://www.silkentwinecharity.org/>

Contact: [info@silkentwinecharity.org](mailto:info@silkentwinecharity.org)

Eligibility Criteria: Applicant must be a cancer survivor or currently diagnosed with cancer.

Applicant must be a graduating high school senior with a minimum grade point average of 3/0 on a 4/0 scale. Applicant must be enrolled in a two or four -year undergraduate program or professional/trade school as a freshman

Financial Award: \$1,000

Application Period: Applications are due by May 31st, 2025

Special Love for Children with Cancer (Kay-Moore Scholarship Fund):

<https://speciallove.org/patients/scholarships/>

Contact: [scholarships@speciallove.org](mailto:scholarships@speciallove.org)

Phone: 1-888-930-2707

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be between the ages of 17-25, pursuing postsecondary education or training, and who are or have participated in Special Love programming. Educational scholarships are available to former and current pediatric cancer patients.

Financial Award: Awards range from \$1,000-\$3,500.

Application Period: Anticipated application period to begin in March 2025

Toby Merrill Scholarship:

<https://www.tobymerrillscholarship.org/>

Contact: N/A

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be experiencing or experiences personal or family issues related to cancer or bereavement.

Financial Award:

Application Period: Anticipated due date is February 1st, 2025

Tom Coughlin Jay Fund:

<https://tcjayfund.org/get-help/scholarship-guidelines/>

Contact: [sue@tcjayfund.org](mailto:sue@tcjayfund.org) Phone: 201-788-0827

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must have had a cancer diagnosis before the age of 21. In addition to a cancer diagnosis, all applicants must be enrolled, or be planning to enroll, full-time in an accredited college or university. Applicants in New York must be permanent residents of one of the following five boroughs of New York City: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, or Queens. Applicants in New Jersey must be permanent residents of one of the following counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic, and Union.

Financial Award: \$2,500 scholarship; renewable for up to 4 years.

Application Period: The anticipated due date is April 1st, 2025

Transplant Recipient International Organization (TRIO) Scholarship Program:

<https://www.trioweb.org/scholarship-program>

Contact: [info@TRIOweb.org](mailto:info@TRIOweb.org)

Phone: 1-813-800-TRIO(8746)

Eligibility: Must be a TRIO member (membership fee is \$20). Transplant recipients are not the only ones who are eligible to apply for a TRIO scholarship. As long as someone in the applicant's family is a member of TRIO, and the applicant has some direct connection to transplantation (as a recipient, living donor, donor family, or member of a family with at least one recipient), they meet the TRIO membership requirement. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Financial Award: \$1,000

Application Period: Application deadlines will be on their website beginning January 2025

# Other Scholarship Opportunities (not cancer-specific)

## Frederick J. Krause Scholarship on Health and Disability:

<https://aahd.us/initiatives/scholarship-program/>

Contact: [scholarship@aahd.us](mailto:scholarship@aahd.us)

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have completed one full year of college or more. Applicants must have a disability as defined by the American with Disabilities Act and must provide documentation to verify this. Preference will be given to students majoring in public health, disability studies, health promotion or a field related to disability and health.

Financial Award: Typically, \$1000

Application Period: Application period opens October 1st, 2025, and closes March 1st, 2025

## J. Paris Mosley Scholarship:

<https://collegenowgc.org/cleveland-foundation-scholarship-listing/the-j-paris-mosley-scholarship/>

Contact: [TCFScholarships@clevelandn.org](mailto:TCFScholarships@clevelandn.org)

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be deaf or hard of hearing or have a relative living in their household who is deaf or hard of hearing. Applicant must use American Sign Language in everyday life. Applicant must be enrolling in an accredited nonprofit educational institution. Applicant must have a 2.5 minimum high school GPA.

Financial Award: TBD - Award amount is usually \$1000.

Application Period: Anticipated due date mid-March 2025

## LTZ Foundation Scholarship:

<https://www.ltzfoundation.org/application-details>

Contact: [ltz@ltzfoundation.org](mailto:ltz@ltzfoundation.org) Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must have significant bilateral hearing loss. Applicants are required to have at least a 50 dB unaided hearing loss in both ears (verified by the speech reception threshold – sometimes called the SRT - or the pure tone average sometimes called the PTA - loss on their audiogram). Applicants must be undergraduates attending an accredited non-profit college physically located in the United States.

Financial Award: TBD

Application Period: Applications can be accepted beginning January 2025 until late May 2024

Mays Mission Scholarship:

<https://www.maysmission.org/scholarships/>

Contact: 1-888-503-7955 Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be able to document a significant disability (physical or mental), score of 20 or better on the A.C.T or 970 on S.A.T., be enrolled in a four-year study program (under-graduate only) working toward a baccalaureate degree and provide proof of enrollment.

Financial Award: TBD

Application Period: Anticipate June 30th, 2025

National Center for Learning Disabilities:

<https://www.nclld.org/scholarships-awards/>

Several scholarship opportunities are available for individuals with a documented learning disability and/or ADHD. Scholarship awards vary by amount

Sertoma Hard of Hearing or Deaf Scholarship:

<https://www.sertoma.org/what-we-do/scholarships>

Contact: [inforsertoma@sertomahq.org](mailto:inforsertoma@sertomahq.org)

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must have a minimum 40dB bilateral hearing loss, as evidenced on audiogram by SRT & PTA scores. Applicant to be pursuing a bachelor's degree on a full-time basis at a college or university in the United States. Applicant must have a minimum cumulative 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 un-weighted scale

Financial Award: \$1,000

Application Period: Applicant period begins November 1st, 2024, and ends March 31st, 2025

Students with Disabilities:

<https://plattalaw.com/students-with-disabilities-scholarship/>

Contact: N/A

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must have a medical record of disability. Applicants must be an enrolled student at an accredited college, university, or high school in the United States.

Financial Award: \$5,000

Application Period: Applications are due November 15th, 2024

# Scholarship Searches and Lists

## FinAid Cancer Scholarships:

<https://finaid.org/scholarships/cancer/>

Free search of scholarships. All listed cancer-specific scholarships that are still active are listed above.

## Financial Aid Counseling

### College Consultants Care:

<https://collegeconsultantscare.org/>

Provides free college admissions and financial aid information/counseling, free comprehensive college admission, and testing strategy

### National Grace Foundation:

<https://graceamerica.org/>

The National GRACE Foundation's College Awareness Program offers FREE college admission, financial aid counseling, and advocacy services.

## Other Helpful Resources

### American Cancer Society:

<https://www.cancer.org/>

Resource searches based on diagnosis

### Livestrong:

<https://livestrong.org/>

Extensive resources for finances, fertility, education, health, etc.

### National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship:

<https://canceradvocacy.org/resources/survivorship-checklist/survivor-resources/>

NCCS provides a wide variety of resources for patients, caregivers, and health care professionals.

### PA Career Link:

<https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/>

Job training resources, resume writing, and other helpful counseling regarding employment.