

Standing Out in Your Scholarship Application



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TTCF Community Impact Team



A Strong Application Matters

- There is simply more \$\$ needed than funding available
- In 2024, **\$1,630,511** awarded through Tahoe Truckee community-supported scholarships
 - Average award size \$7,028
 - Average annual need \$30,280
 - In 2024, \$4,541,959 needed annually
- Committee members closely review **150+** applications.





Apply for FAFSA or CADAA

- It is HIGHLY recommended that all students complete the **FAFSA or CADAA**
- These applications give you access to the largest source(s) of aid to help you pay for college or career tech school
- Need-based scholarships use Student Aid Index (SAI) numbers to equitably determine financial need among applicants.
- SAI helps committee reviewers puzzle piece your awards with financial aid offers to get you the most \$\$ possible





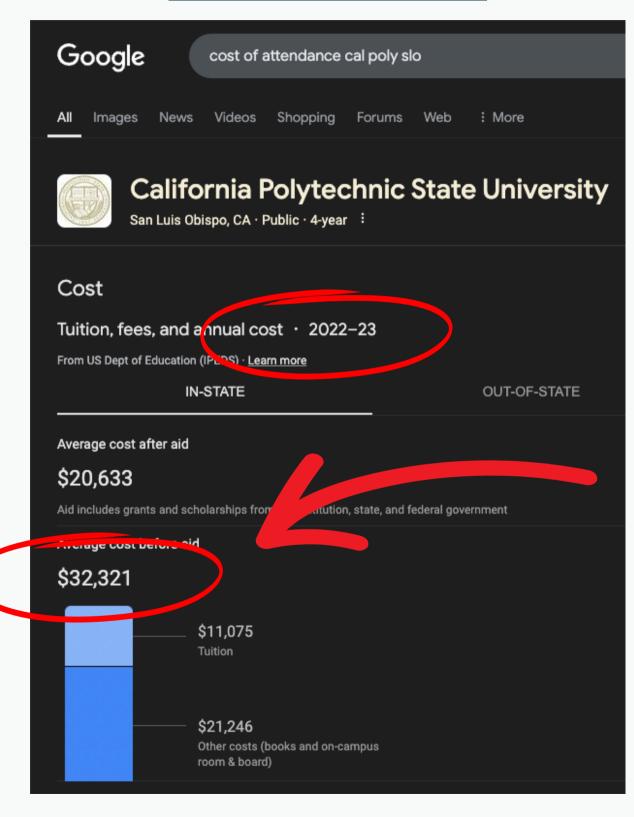
Investigate Cost of Attendance

- Cost of Attendance (COA) is more than tuition and fees. It also includes:
 - Estimated living expenses
 - Food and housing
 - Books, course materials, supplies, and equipment
 - Personal expenses
- Visit your school(s) of choice financial page
 - General Google searches produce old and/or incomplete information
- This difference could affect the amount you are awarded!

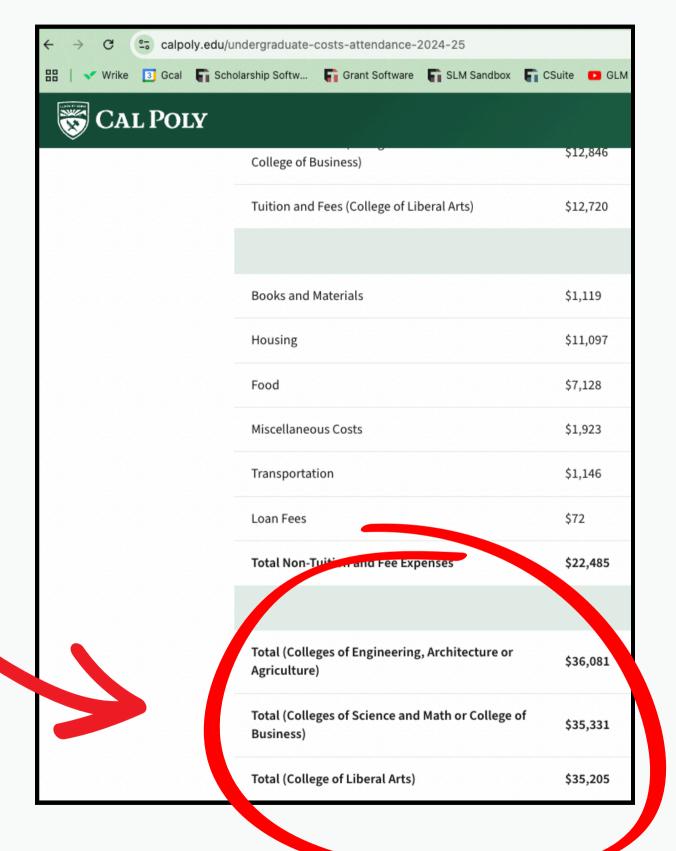




GENERAL GOOGLE SEARCHES <u>DO NOT WORK</u>



\$3,760 difference!







Give Reviewers an Idea of You

Be Authentic

 Overly polished essays don't resonate with committee members as much as honest stories

Highlight your achievements!

- Showcase your leadership and initiative
 - Use specific examples
 - If sharing a hardship, focus on how you overcame it and what you learned
- **Show your impact** in the local community by sharing involvement in local activities, organizations, or volunteer work



Connect Your Story to Your Goals

- Demonstrate the thought you have put into your next steps after high school
 - Why have you selected your schools of choice?
- Detail **Financial Need and special circumstances** affecting your family's ability to pay for school
- Outline what career path you are setting yourself on, and what steps you'll need to take to get there
 - Share the curiosities you have about your future







Gathering Strong Recommendation(s)

- A quality letter of recommendation makes a significant difference
 - Find a reviewer who can speak to your character and potential
- Ask them to highlight areas they can amplify
- Be sure they know to expect your request!
 and thank them for their time and effort!





Stay Organized

- Start your application <u>today</u>
- Stay on top of deadlines
 - All scholarship application content is due Monday, March 31st @ midnight
- Triple-check your application before submission
 - Are all relevant Qualifying Questions checked?
 - Are there any typos in your essays?
 - Is all of your information is true and accurate?



Keep TTCF Up to Date

- After submitting your TTCF Common Application, please let us know when you...
 - Receive an Acceptance or Declination Letter
 - Receive a Financial Aid Offer
 - Make a decision about which school you will attend
- Email scholarships@ttcf.net with updates and/or any questions





Your Community Scholarship To Dos



Apply for FAFSA or CADAA



Create an account (with an email you use!) on bit.ly/TTCF_Scholarships



• Decide on and ask a Letter of Recommendation writer



Investigate the 2025-2026 Cost of Attendance (COA) for your school(s) of choice



• Check out our **FAQs for Scholarship Applications**



• Submit Common application <u>as soon as possible</u> to see your eligibility for all specific scholarships



• Keep scholarships@ttcf.net updated with your plans and offers



Important Dates

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Application portal opened!

MONDAY, MARCH 31

- ALL application content is due
 - Common application and required LOR
 - Supplemental questions and essays
 - Additional required and/or optional LORs

APRIL 21-25

Interviews scheduled

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

News shared for larger/multi-year awards

MAY 1

College Decision Date





Thank you!

