

# Standing Out in Your Scholarship Application



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# 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 DO NOT WORK

Google search results for "cost of attendance cal poly slo". The page shows the California Polytechnic State University logo and name. Under the "Cost" section, it lists "Tuition, fees, and annual cost · 2022-23" with a red circle around it. Below this, it shows "Average cost after aid" as \$20,633 and "Average cost before aid" as \$32,321, both with red circles. A red arrow points from the \$32,321 value towards the right. A bar chart shows "Tuition" at \$11,075 and "Other costs (books and on-campus room & board)" at \$21,246.

**\$3,760 difference!**

calpoly.edu/undergraduate-costs-attendance-2024-25

College of Business)	\$12,846
Tuition and Fees (College of Liberal Arts)	\$12,720
Books and Materials	\$1,119
Housing	\$11,097
Food	\$7,128
Miscellaneous Costs	\$1,923
Transportation	\$1,146
Loan Fees	\$72
<b>Total Non-Tuition and Fee Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,485</b>
<b>Total (Colleges of Engineering, Architecture or Agriculture)</b>	<b>\$36,081</b>
<b>Total (Colleges of Science and Math or College of Business)</b>	<b>\$35,331</b>
<b>Total (College of Liberal Arts)</b>	<b>\$35,205</b>

# 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 **today**
- 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](mailto: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](https://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 as soon as possible to see your eligibility for all specific scholarships



- Keep [scholarships@ttcf.net](mailto: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!**

