



Cuesta College Scholarship Workshop



Cuesta College Financial Aid Office

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Workshop Agenda



- Scholarships
 - Resources available
 - Tips for applying
 - Documents to get ready
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Essay writing tips

- Cuesta Scholarship Application
 - Overview
 - Requirements
 - How to apply
 - Frequently asked questions



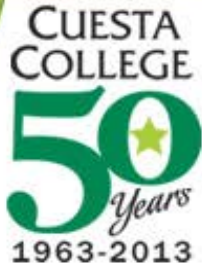
Scholarships

Gift aid

- Merit-based
- Demographics
- Employer
- Background



Scholarship Resources



■ ***Free Online Scholarship Searches:***

- FastWeb Scholarship Search
- College Board's Fund Finder
- Scholarships.com
- Peterson's Award Database

■ ***Institutional Scholarships***

- Cuesta College Scholarship Program
- Transfer institution's Financial Aid office website

■ ***Local Public Library***

■ ***Local Community Organizations***

- Local scholarships may have fewer applicants - better chance for you!



Scholarship Search



- ***Start searching now!***

- Early deadlines
- Cuesta Scholarship deadline: March 2, 2018

- ***Online Scholarship Searches***

- Check how often the web site is updated (annually, quarterly?)
- Be aware of scams! If it costs money, it's usually a scam.

- ***Organize your applications***

- Create a folder for each scholarship
- Keep track of application requirements and deadlines

Common Documents



- ***Transcripts***

- Official vs. unofficial
- Show merit

- ***Financial need***

- Tax returns
- FAFSA results

- ***Letters of recommendation***

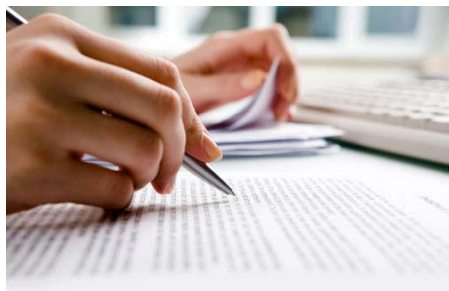
- ***Personal statements / essays***



Letters of Recommendation

- ***Things to provide the recommendation writer:***
 - Plenty of time! —at least 2-3 weeks before the scholarship deadline
 - Information about yourself:
 - Summary of extra-curricular activities and/ or copy of your resume
 - Draft of your scholarship essays
 - Stamped and addressed envelope (if applicable)

- ***Select your references carefully!***
 - Select an instructor/counselor/supervisor who:
 - Will write about your accomplishments in a job or academic setting
 - Will not submit a generic recommendation form with no specific examples of your abilities



Essay Questions

Answer the Question

- Ask yourself: What is the goal of the scholarship essay?
- Give concrete examples linked to essay question
- Try to incorporate your experiences
- Vague statements or unexplained references to events, conditions or circumstances (i.e. “I had problems and couldn’t find a job.”) are not encouraged.
- Support your statements of academic achievements with specific examples



Essay Questions



Proofread your essays:

- Spelling, grammar, and organization have an effect on the reader
- Ask a teacher, parent or counselor to provide feedback
- Prepare to write more than one draft
- NEVER submit a handwritten essay



Essay Questions

Distinguish yourself:

- Document your achievements
- Hobbies and extracurricular activities count
- Provides opportunity to be eligible for a wider variety of scholarships
- *Depth* of involvement will distinguish you
- When stating your activities: quality is better than quantity





Cuesta Scholarship Overview



- Over 150 scholarships available!
- Scholarship awards range from \$200 to \$2000
- Criteria vary based on financial need, GPA, major, extra-curricular activities, academic standing, gender, ethnicity, etc.

Cuesta Scholarship Requirements



Eligibility

- Cuesta ID# (i.e. you've applied to Cuesta)
- For most scholarships, cumulative GPA 2.0 or better (includes Fall 2018 grades)
- Enrolled at least **half time** (minimum 6.0 units) for fall 2018 and spring 2019

Complete the following by March 2, 2018:

- Online scholarship application (cuesta.academicworks.com)
- 2018-19 FAFSA or CA Dream Act application*



Applying for the Cuesta Scholarship

Deadline is March 2, 2018

Complete Online Scholarship Application

- Available online at: <http://cuesta.academicworks.com>
- Five short answer questions—be sure to answer each one thoughtfully and thoroughly



Applying for the Cuesta Scholarship

If you win a Cuesta scholarship, you must:

- Write a “thank you letter” for each scholarship you win
- Attend the Scholarship Reception in August





Frequently Asked Questions

- Do I have to attend Cuesta in Fall 2018 in order to get a scholarship?
- How many scholarships does this application consider me for?
- What if I don't have a 2.0 GPA?
- What if I don't qualify for financial aid, should I still submit my FAFSA?
- If I transfer, can I get the scholarship award at the other college?
- When will I get notified if I get a scholarship?

