

## What You Can Do to Finance College

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Lesson Type:  | Group                              |
| Time Length:  | 35 minutes                         |
| Grade Levels: | 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> |

**Purpose + Outcome:** Students use the Scholarship Finder to research scholarships and identify scholarships to apply to. Students will save two scholarships to their Portfolios.

**As a teacher or counselor, this lesson will help you answer the following questions:**

- How can I help students begin to find college scholarships to apply to?
- How do students save scholarships to their Portfolios?

### Materials

- Student Handout [Print in advance](#)
- Financial Aid Information Packet (for students) [Print in advance](#)

### Technology Recommendations

- Instructor Computer with Projector
- Each student needs a computer.

### What are *Discussion Opportunity* questions?

*Discussion Opportunity* questions are large or small group process questions meant to enhance student learning. They are not necessary to teach an effective lesson, but highly recommended if time permits.

### A note about creating accounts on [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)

It is recommended that both teachers and students create an account on the website. This allows students to save all survey and assessment results, save items to a Portfolio and use the online journaling functions. This lesson assumes students have accounts. If students do not have accounts, they can still participate in the activity, but will not be able to save their work on the site.

### Activity (35 minutes)

This activity takes approximately 30-35 minutes from start to finish once students are at their computers. Give each student a handout before beginning.

### Approximate Time Breakdown

**Steps 1-2:** 5 minutes

**Steps 3-4:** 5 minutes

**Steps 6-8:** 10 minutes

**Steps 9-10:** 10 minutes

**Reflection:** 5 minutes

### Welcome and Context

In today's activity, you will conduct focused scholarship research using the Scholarship Finder tool on [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu). You will provide information about yourself, then browse through a list of scholarships that are a match for you. In the end, you will save two scholarships to your Portfolio.

**Step 1:** Go to [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu) and login.

**Step 2:** "Today is all about finding scholarships that are a match for who you are and your interests. To get started, click on **Financial Aid Planning**."

After students have logged in workshop leaders are encouraged to take five minutes to go to each student computer to ensure students are logged in properly. Break the class up into small groups and ask them to discuss the following question(s) while you go to every computer. Post the question(s) on the board:

- Have any of you applied for college scholarships? If you have, what is the name of the scholarship? How do you know what makes you a match for those scholarships?
- If you have not applied for scholarships, what kind of scholarships do you think would be a match for you?

**Step 3:** There are several different ways to explore scholarships on [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu). Today they will be using the **Scholarship Finder**. Quickly show students that the Financial Aid Planning page has several resources. It is not necessary to go through them in detail.

**Step 4:** "Click on **Scholarship Finder** (in the Quicklinks box on the right). Start by clicking on **Introduction** and quickly read the overview provided. Then, click on **Your Scholarship Profile**. You will be asked to provide information about yourself. Read the instructions carefully before beginning."



Tip: Refer students to the Financial Aid Information Packet to learn more about scholarships and other types of financial aid. It is also helpful to define "scholarship" for students: a scholarship is a monetary gift from colleges or private organizations and companies to help pay for the costs of college. Students can be awarded scholarships based on academic merit, interests, extra-curricular accomplishments, and experiences, among other things.

**Step 5:** Direct students to start by adding information to each category by clicking on **Add/Change**. Begin with the "City" category.

**Your Scholarship Profile**

To add data, click Add/Change for a category. You will then be asked to select factors for that category that apply to you.

Your selections will update Your Scholarship Profile. Add as many categories as you can. **The more data you provide, the better your list of suggested scholarships will be.**

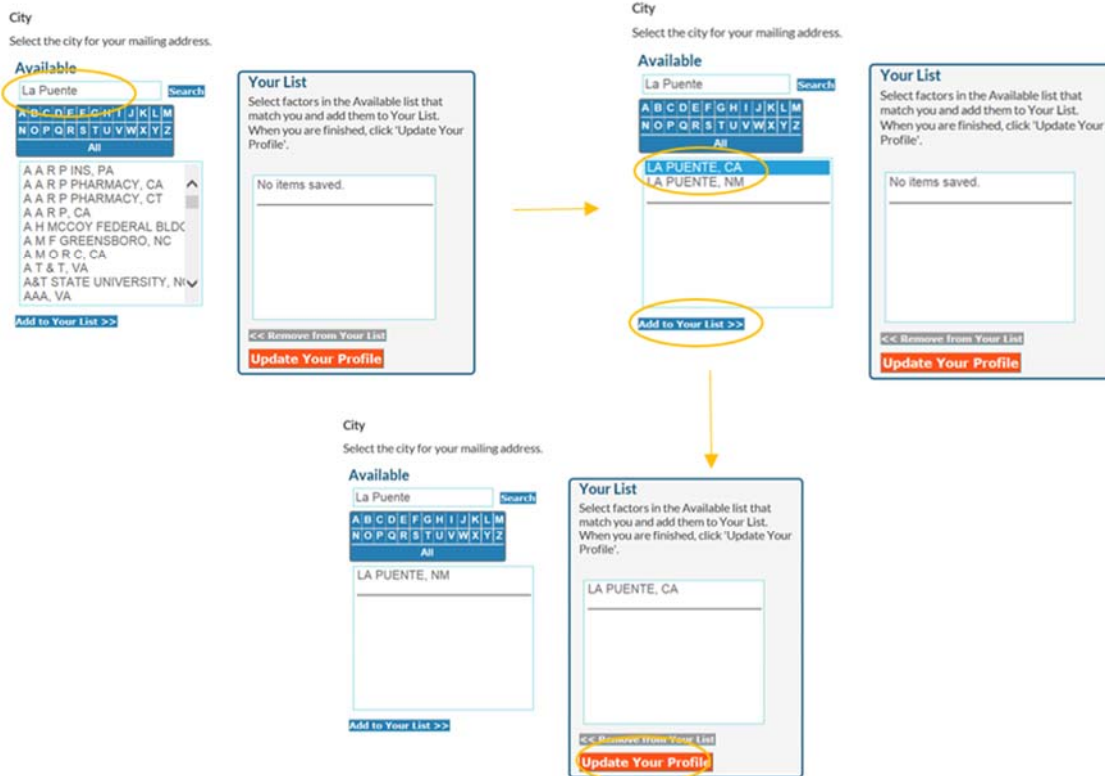
These categories of personal information are requested because scholarships use these categories as criteria for their award. If a value you are looking for is not listed, it is because no scholarships include it as a criterion.

Click See Matching Scholarships when Your Profile is complete.

Your Profile is saved so you can return again to see your list or update your Profile.

| CATEGORY     | YOUR SAVED VALUES | ADD/CHANGE |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| Citizenship: | U.S. Citizen      | Add/Change |
| Country:     | United States     | Add/Change |
| State:       | California        | Add/Change |
| City:        | No values saved   | Add/Change |
| County:      | No values saved   | Add/Change |

**Step 6:** Students can type the name of their city in the search box and click **Search** → Select the name of the city and click **Add to Your List** → the city will appear in the **Your List** box → then click **Update Your Profile**. They will then be taken back to **Your Scholarship Profile**.



**Step 7:** Students continue clicking **Add/Change** for categories where they have information to enter. Each category has a similar format to add information as the city example above. Some, but not all categories will probably apply to most students.



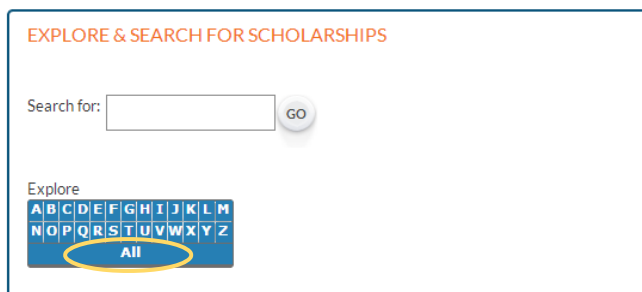
To select more than one category in **Race**, for example, hold Ctrl (or command on a Mac) while selecting appropriate categories. This applies to all sections where you want to select more than one category.

**Step 8:** Ask the class, “which categories do you think are most applicable to you, and why?” Gather a few responses. Then encourage students to complete as many sections as possible. The more they add, the more scholarships they will be matched with.

“After you have entered information in all the categories you wish you complete, click **See Matching Scholarships** at the bottom of the **Your Scholarship Profile Page.**”

**Step 9:** “You will now see a list of scholarships that are a match for you based on the information you entered on **Your Scholarship Profile Page.** Take a few minutes to review the scholarships by clicking on the scholarship titles.

You can see Local scholarships only by exploring the full list of scholarships. To do this, click on **Scholarships.** Where it says **Explore** and provides the alphabet, click on **All** to view the full scholarship list.”



From the full list, students can click on the up and down arrows next to the column header **Type.** If there are any local scholarships in their area, the Type will be **Local.**

18760 matching scholarships

1 2 3 next > last >>

| Scholarship  | Type     | Minimum Award | Maximum Award | Average Award |
|--|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sample Scholarship                                       | Local    |               |               |               |
| Order Sons of Italy in America National Leadership Grant | National | \$5,000       | \$25,000      |               |
| Entrance Scholarship                                     | National | \$2,500       | \$15,000      |               |

**Discussion opportunity:** What are some of the scholarships that came up? Have you heard of these scholarships before?

**Step 10:** "Select two scholarships you are interested in applying to and write them down on your handout. Click on the scholarship title and on the scholarship information page, click **Add to Portfolio.**"

Break the class up into pairs or small groups. Give them five minutes to briefly share the scholarships they saved to their Portfolios, and why.

### Reflection (5 minutes)

Post the following question on the screen: Describe one of the scholarships you added to your Portfolio. Why is it a good match for you?

If students have accounts on [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu), direct them to use the online journaling tool below. If not, students can type their response in Word, or handwrite.

Direct students to access their online journals:

- Make sure students are signed in to [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)
- Click on "Your Portfolio" box on the right side of the screen.
- Click on "Your Journal."
- Click "Add journal entry."
- Write journal entry by responding to the questions on the screen.
- Click "Save."

## What You Can Do To Finance College

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 1:** Go to [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu) and login.

★ Reflection opportunity: have you applied for scholarships yet? If so, which ones? If not, what is stopping you?

**Step 2:** Click on **Financial Aid Planning** → **Scholarship Finder** (in **Quicklinks** box on the right).

**Step 3:** There are several different ways to explore scholarships on [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu). Today you will be using the **Scholarship Finder**.

★ What is a scholarship? A scholarship is a monetary gift from colleges or private organizations and companies to help pay for the costs of college. Students can be awarded scholarships based on academic merit, interests, extra-curricular accomplishments, and experiences, among other things.

**Step 4:** Click on **Scholarship Finder**. Start by clicking on **Introduction** and quickly read the overview provided. Then, click on **Your Scholarship Profile**. You will be asked to provide information about yourself. The more information you provide, the more scholarships you can be matched. Read the instructions carefully before beginning.

**Step 5:** Start by adding information to each category by clicking on **Add/Change**. Begin with the “City” category.

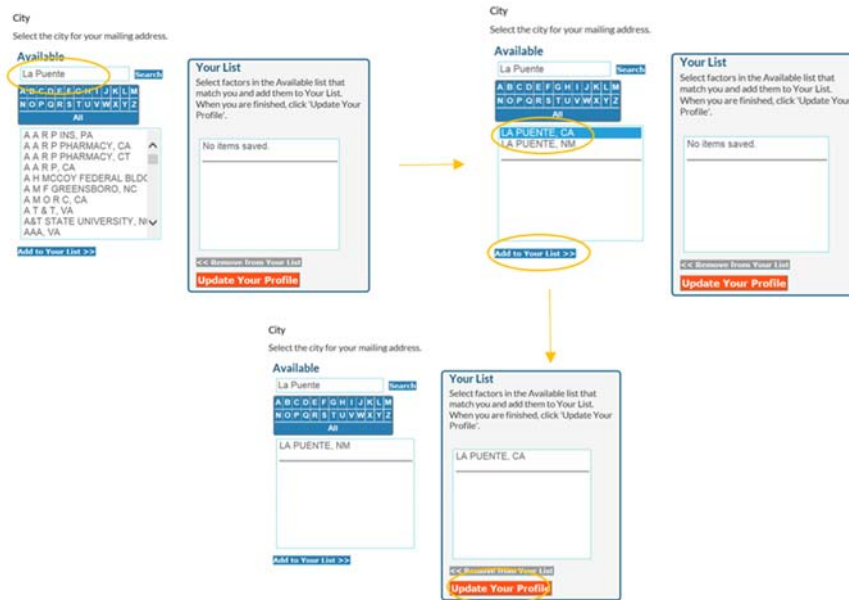
scholarships include it as a criterion.

Click See Matching Scholarships when Your Profile is complete.

Your Profile is saved so you can return again to see your list or update your Profile.

| CATEGORY     | YOUR SAVED VALUES | ADD/CHANGE |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| Citizenship: | U.S. Citizen      | Add/Change |
| Country:     | United States     | Add/Change |
| State:       | California        | Add/Change |
| City:        | No values saved   | Add/Change |
| County:      | No values saved   | Add/Change |

**Step 6:** Type the name of your city in the search box and click **Search** → Select the name of your city and click **Add to Your List** → the city will appear in the **Your List** box → then click **Update Your Profile**. You will be taken back to **Your Scholarship Profile**.



**Step 7:** Continue clicking **Add/Change** for categories where you have information to enter. Each category has a similar format to add information as the city example above. Some, but not all categories will probably apply to you.

★ To select more than one category in **Race**, for example, hold Ctrl (or command on a Mac) while selecting appropriate categories. This applies to all sections where you want to select more than one category.

**Step 8:** After you have entered information in all the categories you wish you complete, click **See Matching Scholarships** at the bottom of the **Your Scholarship Profile Page**.

**Step 9:** You will now see a list of scholarships that are a match for you based on the information you entered on **Your Scholarship Profile Page**. Take a few minutes to review the scholarships by clicking on the scholarship title.

**Step 10:** Select two scholarships you are interested in applying to. Click on the scholarship title and on the scholarship information page, click **Add to Portfolio**.

|  |
|--|
| Scholarship #1: _____<br><br>Scholarship #2: _____ |
|--|

**Reflection (5 minutes)**

Your teacher will give you instructions about how to complete this reflection.

- Describe one of the scholarships you added to your Portfolio. Why is it a good match for you?