



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 who 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. Scholarship 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If you find that any of the information is out of date or inaccurate, please let us know so we can continue to update our information.

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



Making the RICHII Transition into College

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



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

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 "Liust need to talk" days. We have your best interest in mind and want to see you succeed!

Visit the NCCS.org and beyond the cure.org for additional resources and information.

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





Cancer-Related Scholarship Opportunities

#RAREis Scholarship Fund:

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

Contact: rareis@scholarshipamerica.org

Phone (507) 931-0799

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be over the age of 17 or older who have 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 2026 until mid-

April 2026

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, 2025, until January 31st, 2026.

Children's Brain Tumor Foundation:

https://cbtf.org/scholarships/

Contact: 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

Eligibility Requirements: TBD

Financial Award: Varies

Application Period: Application period to open in January 2026

CURE-Cancer Support Scholarship:

https://www.lepfoundation.org/applications

Contact: 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, 2026

<u>Dreaming of Three</u>:

https://www.dreamingofthree.org/

Contact: 237 Upper Service Road, Hookstown PA 15050

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be either a graduating senior enrolling in a two or four-year college or university, or plan to attend a professional or trade school, or someone who is currently attending a two or four-year college or university or professional or trade school.

Applicants must have an unweighted G.P.A. of 3.25

Financial Award: Two Awards - \$2,500 and \$1,500.

Application Period: Application period opens March 1st 2026, and closes April 30th, 2026

Evan Foundation:

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

Contact: info@theevanfoundation.org

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be high school seniors who have survived a high-risk pediatric cancer and been 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, 2026, until May 1st, 2026

Gabriela Blanco College Scholarship:

https://scholarships.sofiashope.org/

Contact: 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: The application cycle will open in January 2026

Faith, Hope, and Love Jesus Inc:

https://faithhopeandlovejesus.org/college_scholarship

Contact: 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: Applications can be submitted from August 2025 until May 1st, 2026

Han C. Choi Scholarship:

https://www.napabalawfoundation.org/scholarships

Contact: 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 2026

Hope Fund Educational Scholarship

https://specialove.org/siblings/scholarships/

Contact: scholarships@specialove.org or call (888) 930-2707

Eligibility Requirements: To be considered for this scholarship, applicants must: Be a sibling of a childhood cancer patient; Have participated in at least one BRASS camp-based program through Special Love, Inc.; Be an undergraduate junior or senior, or a graduate student; Be pursuing a degree in agriculture, science/medicine, or nonprofit management.

Financial Award: \$1000 - \$1,500

Application Period: Applications can be submitted starting March 2026

Hydrocephalus Association:

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

Contact: info@hydroassoc.org

Phone: 1-888-598-3789

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be 17 years 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, a 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 educational experience.

Financial Award: \$1,000

Application Period: Applications can be submitted starting January 2026.

The Izzy Foundation:

https://theizzyfoundation.org/scholarship/

Contact: 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, 2026 until May 1st, 2026

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, and 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, 2026

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 closes on October 15th, 2025.

LLS Scholarship for Blood Cancer Survivors:

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

Contact: 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 September 30th, 2025

Mesothelioma Cancer Alliance:

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

Contact: scholarships@mesothelioma.com

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must have battled cancer at any point in their lives, not limited to mesothelioma, or 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 can be submitted from November 1st, 2025, until March 31st, 2026.

Michael Hunter Memorial Scholarship:

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

Contact: N/A

Eligibility Criteria: Graduating high school seniors, 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 2026 until mid-March 2026

National Amputation Foundation

https://botwin.net/natamp/scholar1.html

Contact: The National Amputation Foundation, Att: Claude S. Weiler Scholarship Coordinator 40 Church Street, Malverne, NY 11565

Eligibility Criteria: The National Amputation Foundation is proud to offer scholarships to college students with a major limb amputation who will be attending an accredited university as a full-time student. A major limb amputation is described as the loss of a limb beginning at or above the wrist or ankle

Financial Award: Unknown

Application Period: Applications can be submitted from September 1^{st,} 2025, until August 31^{st,} 2026.

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, 2026, until March 31st, 2026

National Collegiate Cancer Foundation:

https://collegiatecancer.org/scholarships/

Contact: 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 your 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 in March 2026

Patient Advocate Foundation:

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

Contact: 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 2026

Paul Bernot Memorial Foundation:

https://paulbernotfoundation.org/scholarship

Contact: 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: The application period is anticipated to open in Winter 2026 and close early spring 2026

Ruth Cheatham Foundation:

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

Contact: Mail@ruthcheathamfoundation.org

Phone: (972) 897-3371

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants are open to young adults ages 17-26 who have been diagnosed with cancer (current or in the past). Applicants must be enrolled in or accepted into an accredited undergraduate college, university, or trade school. Applicants must be between the ages of 17-26. Applicants 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

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, 2026

Simon Cancer Foundation:

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

Contact: 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: \$500-\$2,500

Application Period: Application period begins October 2025, and closes January 1st, 2026

Sofia Blanco College Scholarships

https://scholarships.sofiashope.org/

Contact: 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 in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program in the United States.

Financial Award: \$2,000

Application Period: Application period begins January 1st, 2026, and closes March 15th, 2026

Sophie Malaviya Memorial Scholarship:

https://www.silkentwinecharity.org/

Contact: 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, 2026

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

https://specialove.org/patients/scholarships/

Contact: scholarships@specialove.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 2026

Toby Merrill Scholarship:

https://www.tobymerrillscholarship.org/

Contact: N/A

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

Financial Award:

Application Period: Anticipated due date is February 1st, 2026

Tom Coughlin Jay Fund:

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

Contact: 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 application period will open in January 2026

Transplant Recipient International Organization (TRIO) Scholarship Program:

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

Contact: 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: Anticipated application deadlines will be on their website beginning January 2026

Other Scholarship Opportunities (not cancer-specific)

Frederick J. Krause Scholarship on Health and Disability:

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

Contact: 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 Americans 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 December 2025 and closes March 6th, 2026

J. Paris Mosley Scholarship:

https://collegenowgc.org/cleveland-foundation-scholarship-listing/the-j-paris-mosley-scholarship/Contact: TCFScholarships@clevefdn.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 2026

<u> John Lepping Memorial Scholarship</u>

https://www.lepfoundation.org/applications

Contact:

Eligibility Criteria: The applicant must have a diagnosis of the following, but not limited to, physical conditions (spinal cord injury, loss of limb, birth defects, etc.) and psychological conditions (autism, post-traumatic stress etc.). Scholarship recipients must be able to provide proof of disability with a letter of confirmation from a physician. Proof required after award notification. Applicant must be a permanent resident of New York, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania.

Financial Award: \$5,000

Application Period: Anticipated due date is May 1st, 2026

LTZ Foundation Scholarship:

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

Contact: Itz@Itzfoundation.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 2026 until late May 2026

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 (undergraduate only) working toward a baccalaureate degree, and provide proof of enrollment.

Financial Award: TBD

Application Period: Anticipate June 30th, 2026

National Center for Learning Disabilities:

https://www.ncld.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

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 unweighted scale

Financial Award: \$1,000

Application Period: Applicant period begins November 1st, 2025, and ends March 31st, 2026

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 enrolled students at an accredited college, university, or high school in the United States.

Financial Award: \$5,000

Application Period: Applications are due November 15th, 2025

Ye Notorious Krewe of the Peg Leg Pirate

https://www.peglegpirate.org/helping-amputees/scholarships/

Contact: PO Box 1854 Ruskin, FL 33575-1854

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must: Have had a loss of limb; be accepted to an accredited university, graduate school, or community college; and have a GPA of at least 3.5 (based on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent, if in college.

Financial Award: \$1,000

Application Period: Applications are due March 15^{th,} 2026

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

<u>Livestrong:</u>

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.