

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS - NEW STUDENTS

Question	Answer
1. How do I apply for institutional scholarships?	There is no need to apply. Students that meet the criteria are automatically considered for merit-based awards. The Office of Admissions is currently reviewing students that meet the criteria and specific initiative requirements. If awarded, notifications will be sent to students via email and posted to student's financial aid award in Banner Web.
2. I have a high level grade point average and good test score, why did I not receive a scholarship award?	Even if you met the requirements via grade point average and test scores, awards are competitive, and many students meet the criteria. There is no guarantee that every student who meets the criteria will receive an award but CAU is committed to assisting as many eligible students as possible. Students are considered for awards as long as funding is available. The good news about CAU is that even if you were not awarded a merit based scholarship as a new student, there is a possibility of receiving a merit scholarship, as an upperclassman, if you meet the criteria.
3. Are institutional scholarships renewable?	Specific scholarships are renewable i.e. Three-Tier Scholarships and special scholarship initiatives. Merit Scholarships are awarded yearly <u>if students meet the criteria</u> but are not automatically renewable. Merit Scholarship awards amounts may vary yearly due to availability of funds and grade point average. Need based/gap funding if available, is used to assist families with affordability issues on a yearly basis, but are not automatically renewable. Students who receive need based/gap funding <u>may</u> be awarded for subsequent years if funds are available but all financial aid options must be realized.
4. I do not meet the criteria for institutional awards, is there any way for me to receive additional funding through the University?	Students must exercise all of their financial aid options and have their loan status completed to see where they stand in terms of affordability. If emergency and/or gap funding is available, the Office of Scholarships and Awards and the Office of Financial Aid automatically reviews families who are needing additional funding. There is no guarantee of award. If emergency or gap funds are awarded they will be posted to the student's Banner Web account.
5. What are other ways to secure additional funding?	We encourage all students to do an extensive external scholarship search to secure additional funds. You can gain access to external resources on our website under Scholarships and Discounts, pay particular attention to United Negro College Fund and Thurgood Marshall. You may also contact Ms. Jackson, Scholarship Coordinator at jjackson2@cau.edu to discuss affordability options.
6. Can I wait to process my loans to see if additional scholarship are awarded?	We encourage families to make sure that payments are received to the University in a timely manner to ensure that students move through the registration process smoothly. If you do not have a status on your scholarship award and/or payment prior to the time that the payment is due to the University, you should use all available resources to pay the bill. If scholarships are received after you have used loans to pay your balance, we can reduce the loan liability once the scholarship payment is received.
7. I have applied for external scholarships and have not heard anything, what can I do?	Most organizations have application and processing deadlines. Prior to the deadlines you can network with the organization to ensure that they have all of the information needed to ensure that you are being considered. Networking allows you to make sure your best attributes are conveyed to the organization. Students should be creative with their networking.
8. I have been awarded a scholarship but it will not be sent until after school starts how can it be considered?	We encourage students to work with organizations to see if they can send the funds prior to registration. If funds cannot be sent and are needed to cover costs, students should contact the Office of Scholarship and Awards to see if the funds can be memo' d to the student's account until the funds arrive. This should be done prior to registration and only legitimate scholarships with award letters on official scholarship letterhead will be considered.
9. If I do not have enough funding to come in the fall semester can I use my institutional or external scholarship award for spring?	Regarding institutional scholarships, if you do not attend in the fall semester your award is cancelled and is not available for the spring semester. External scholarship awards could be used if the organization will allow it to be applied to spring only. Contact the organization to see if a spring only award is possible, if so they should adjust your award letter to indicate that the funds can be used once you register for the spring semester.