



Students, please read this important information *before* logging in:

Our application is a template provided by Scholarship America and is used by Dollars for Scholars Chapters across the United States. We are unable to customize the application to suit our needs, so we have created these additional instructions. The information you enter in the student profile helps you match to scholarships. The more information you enter, the more scholarships you may match to. Please feel free to skip any questions on the student profile that you are uncomfortable answering.

Pay close attention to the following steps, because they will not be listed on the web pages as you fill out your information.

1. Your application is a multi-step process:
 - a. Fill out your student profile **anytime** by visiting www.whatcom.dollarsforscholars.org (Parents/Students tab)
 - b. Search for scholarships and click "APPLY" for EACH different scholarship.
 - c. Some scholarships require additional essays or references. Review those requirements early and allow for the time it will take to include the necessary information prior to submitting your application.
 - d. Whatcom Dollars for Scholars offers **county-wide** scholarships as well as scholarships targeted for Bellingham School District and Ferndale School District students
 - e. Local scholarships from our program will be **posted in late January/early February**.
2. Request your transcript information from the Counseling Secretary in the Guidance Office at your school.
 - a. If you are a **Squalicum High School Student**, request your transcript information from Mrs. O'Brien, the Career Center Advisor: Cindy.OBrien@bellingshamschools.org
 - b. If you are a **Ferndale High School Student**, request your transcript information from Mrs. Rudd, the Registrar: Stephanie.Ruud@ferndalesd.org
3. Personal recommendations must come from your high school counselor, teacher or administrator. Let your reference know you are planning to ask for a recommendation and that the request will come to them via email. **(They may need to watch their junk/clutter mail folders for requests. Seriously... let them know, this part is important, and it can determine whether you are considered for a scholarship.)**
4. All students (including Running Start) applying for Whatcom Dollars for Scholars Scholarships must select "Senior in High School" as their current grade level in order to match to local scholarships.
5. We are no longer considering SAT or ACT scores as part of our application process. The question still appears on the scholarship application, but any answers provided will not impact the overall score you receive on your application.
6. **Financial Information:** Parents or emancipated students should **select the FAFSA option** and use the **EFC** as the financial aid source when filling out financial information. This is how it works:
 - a. Students will be asked to enter the email address of a parent or guardian.
 - b. That parent/guardian will then receive an emailed request that he or she create a username and password. He or She can then log into www.whatcom.dollarsforscholars.org and enter financial information for the student.
 - c. If you do not have an EFC, please use the FAFSA4Caster (available online) to get an estimated EFC.

- d. If you would like to share more about your financial situation, please consider submitting a brief financial narrative. This optional narrative can be uploaded to the “Documents” section of the student profile.
7. You will be asked to answer two main essay questions in the student profile. The Goals Essay is required, the Unusual Circumstances Essay is optional. Limit your essays to a **100-word maximum**.

If you experience technical difficulties with the website, look for the gray "Support" button on the left-hand side of the page. Any additional questions should be directed to Shannon at selmendorf@whatcomcf.org.