



DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Don't Get Scammed on Your Way to College

Six signs a scholarship search may be a scholarship scam:

- ***“This scholarship is guaranteed or your money back!”***
No one can guarantee that they'll get you a grant or scholarship. Refund guarantees often have conditions or strings attached. Get refund policies in writing – before you pay.
- ***“You can't get this information anywhere else.”***
There are many free lists of scholarships available. Check with your school, library or College Information Service before you decide to pay someone to do the work for you.
- ***“May I have your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship?”***
Don't give out your credit card or bank account number on the phone without getting information in writing first. It may be a setup for an unauthorized withdrawal from your account.
- ***“We'll do all of the work.”***
Don't be fooled. There's no way around it. You must apply for scholarships and grants yourself.
- ***“The scholarship will cost some money.”***
Don't pay anyone who claims to be “holding” a scholarship or grant for you. Free money shouldn't cost a thing.
- ***“You've been selected by a ‘national foundation’ to receive a scholarship.” OR “You're a finalist in a contest.”***
Before you send money to apply for a scholarship, check it out. Make sure the foundation or program is legitimate.

This article was published in the Student Loans of North Dakota Newsletter, “Prairie Publications.” It provides some guidelines for you to avoid being scammed by false promises of free money.

If you receive or hear of a scholarship opportunity that you are unsure of, call the DWU Financial Aid Office. We will check it out for you – before you get scammed.

For a list of some outside scholarships and scholarship search engines, visit www.dwu.edu/financialaid/outside.htm.

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Learning, leadership, faith and service