



# SCHOLARSHIP VETTING CHECKLIST

(Because scholarship scams are #TheWorst)

Approximately 20% of scholarship “opportunities” you find during your search are likely fraudulent—and that number is growing. With the rise of scholarship scams, it’s important to ensure you spend your time and energy applying to valid opportunities. **Use this checklist to help avoid #sketchy scholarships.**

## INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP VETTING

If the scholarship you’re considering includes **ANY** of these items, **DO NOT PROCEED WITH APPLICATION.**

- Requests personal banking information
- Requires Social Security Number (SSN)
- Requires an application fee
- You are “guaranteed to win”
- Scholarship funds are sent to winner via a wire transfer (Western Union, PayPal, etc.)

## DETAILED SCHOLARSHIP VETTING

If the scholarship you’re considering includes **THREE OR MORE** of these items, **DO NOT PROCEED WITH APPLICATION.**

- Hosted on blog site
- Includes grammatical inconsistencies or unprofessional language
- Requires sharing on social media for ‘likes’
- Contains invalid or out-of-country phone number or email
- Provides no contact information for follow-up
- There is no evidence of previous winners
- Requires you to send detailed financial or tax information to an unsecured email
- URL does not match company name (search WHOis.net)
- Address given doesn’t match with the business information listed
- Requires applicants to come up with solutions to a hypothetical legal or business scenario or create a new product that would otherwise be considered applicant’s intellectual property