**Academic Scholarships**
Academic scholarships are also often referred to as merit scholarships, though a merit scholarship can mean anything that has some level of contest to it. These are for the students with the 4.0 GPAs, years as part of several extracurricular activities and the well-rounded applications. They typically have the highest payouts and are considered very prestigious as they are often national awards.

**Average Academic Performance Scholarships**
If that first category nearly scared you away, don’t run off so soon! Even if your grades aren’t the best, there are plenty of scholarships meant for you as well. Average student scholarships do take academics into consideration, but focus on other factors as well, such as community service, leadership, the strength of your essay, etc.

**Athletic Scholarships**
For students with strong academics and physical skills, athletic scholarships are the way to go. There is practically a scholarship for every single sport, from volleyball to football; gymnastics to cheerleading. So, if you excel in anything physical, you should definitely pursue an athletic scholarship.

**Scholarships for Minorities**
There are also many scholarships for minorities available. Some of these are general and for all minorities as a collective whole, while others are catered to individual ethnic groups. It is also a good idea to apply for a minority scholarship if you are part or fully of a certain ethnicity. You will get to represent your culture and possibly win money.

**Scholarships for Women**
As with the scholarships for minorities above, there are also scholarships specifically for women. Since colleges were dominated by men for many years, scholarships have been created for strong, career-minded women that need assistance paying for college expenses. If you are female, it is strongly recommended you pursue a scholarship for women. Moreover, scholarships for women are typically available in just about any field.

**Creative Scholarships**
For those artistic at heart, there are creative scholarships available to help you pursue your passion. Art scholarships, music scholarships and even dance scholarships usually involve an audition of some sort, and can help you get through art school or an art program at a university. Regardless of your creative field, you can rest assured that there is a scholarship out there just for you. However, it is your job to find it and to apply!

**Unusual Scholarships**
Unusual scholarships are a lot of fun and a great way to be creative and get some cash while you’re at it. They are typically sponsored by private companies and are meant to be fun. For instance, there is a scholarship available for left-handed students and one for who can create the best prom dress out of duct tape. Even though there aren’t very many of these off-beat scholarships each year, there are enough to attract significant attention from potential applicants, schools and even the media. Because of this, they may be a bit competitive. However, if you have a killer idea, go for it!

**Community Service Scholarships**
Community service scholarships are fantastic for those that love to give to others and give back to their communities. If you already perform a lot of community service, then a scholarship in this vein may be perfect for you. There is also the Federal Work Study program, which awards a percentage of their funding to students performing community service activities. It may be a viable option for you if you were planning on using work-study as a means of paying for college anyway.