

Frequently Asked Questions:

Where can I see available SOSA scholarship opportunities before starting my Southern Online Scholarship Application (SOSA)?

You can find available scholarship opportunities here:

<https://sou.academicworks.com/>

Do I have to complete a SOSA to be eligible for the scholarship opportunities listed?

Yes. The scholarship opportunities listed on the SOSA are only available via this portal.

Do I have to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for SOSA funds?

Yes, you need to complete the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) to be eligible for many scholarships. Some individual scholarships are not need-based, however reviewers may look at the FAFSA information for potential award selection. There are also some scholarships that will look for students with some “need”, based on income, but may award to middle income students who don’t qualify for the federal Pell grant.

Do all letters of reference, transcripts, and/or supporting documentation have to be submitted by the deadline?

Yes. Your application must be 100% complete by 11:59pm PST on March 15th in order for your application to be considered for that particular scholarship.

What will happen if my letters of reference, transcripts, and/or supporting documentation are not received by the deadline, will you accept late submissions?

Unfortunately, no. The March 15th deadline is firm as the SOSA has been available for applications and submissions since September.

My reference letter hasn't been submitted yet? What can I do?

Double check the email address you entered for the author of your reference letter is correct. If it is not and you cannot correct the address, please email finaidschol@sou.edu. If it is correct, please contact the individual you listed to communicate the deadline for their submission.

The author of my reference letter is having difficulty accessing my application and attaching their letter, what should they do?

Encourage the individual to email finaidschol@sou.edu for assistance.

Are there any tips for completing my application essays?

Certain essay responses become very common so try your best to be unique and creative! You want your application to be memorable and to stand out from those submitted by other applicants.

How can I find opportunities that might interest me without reading every scholarship listed?

There is a search box available at the top of the scholarship list. Enter key words that are applicable to you to view scholarship opportunities more tailored to your interests. For example, "business," "theatre," "Freshman," etc.

The information in my Applicant Record is incorrect, what can I do?

The information in the Applicant Record reflects the information that was available when your student account was created. If the information is incorrect, please contact the Admissions Office. All information will be updated at the conclusion of the SOSA cycle so if updated information has been received, it will be updated at that time.

What will happen if my GPA increases or decreases near the end of the SOSA cycle?

All information will be updated at the conclusion of the SOSA cycle so if your GPA has changed, the adjustment will be made at that time. This includes the

receipt of updated transcripts as well as the grades produced from Winter Term enrollment.

How are SOSA recipients selected?

It depends on the scholarship. Scholarship recipients are selected by on-campus committees, off-campus committees, or volunteer readers who rate the applications against the scholarship criteria included in the opportunity's posting.

When will I know if I have been selected for a scholarship?

The deadline for scholarship notification is the first week of May, however, as committee and volunteer schedules may not accommodate that deadline, this is an estimated timeframe.

How will I be notified if I have been selected for a scholarship?

All notification will be sent through your Southern Oregon University email account.

If I am selected for a scholarship, will I have to write a Thank You Note?

Yes, tips and information to assist with the creation of Thank You Notes will be sent to your home address via traditional mail in late spring, early summer.