

THE NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF WOODEN BOATBUILDING  
Office of the Executive Director

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The purpose of this information sheet is to summarize the information we have here at the School regarding student aid, scholarships, grants and loans.

Financing your education can be the most challenging part of the enrollment process. We will help you as much as we can. That said, the work rests on your shoulders.

There are many ways to reduce tuition - scholarships, grants and loans are the normal way prospective students address these issues.

It is worth pointing out that the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is the only boatbuilding school in North America at which you may earn an Associates in Occupational Specialty (AOS) degree in one year. Completing the degree with us means not having to find additional funding for a second year of studies to earn the same degree elsewhere.

There is some work available locally, and we do have a tuition work exchange program for students who are registered for classes. You must apply for and be accepted for that program. Since you will be in class from 8am through 5pm daily, work can be a difficult proposition.

First and most basically, NEVER pay for scholarship information. (There is often great amounts of information available at your public library – ask a librarian!)

Second, start as early as possible, and be persistent. Leave no stone unturned!

Third, and this is our opinion, try not to take out student loans if you can help it. If you must take out loans, be sure that you understand the details, and most importantly, what your repayment obligations are. The rules change frequently – it is your responsibility to keep up with them.

To see how much you will qualify for with traditional federal student financial aid, you will need to fill out and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You will need the school's federal financial aid code for the portion where you are asked which schools would like your student aid report sent. That number is: **041550**

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

By submitting the FAFSA, you may qualify for a Federal Pell Grant, which does not have to be paid back, and/or federal student loans, which do have to be paid back after you complete school (see our comment above). The Pell Grant's qualifications are totally financially need based and only available to students who have not already earned a bachelors degree.

In addition to federal student aid, there are *many* other scholarship and grant opportunities you may consider pursuing.

Here is some background information you may find useful.

Grants. There may be grants available to you – find your local grant-writing organization and ask them for assistance. Consider searching on grant-writing organizations. The Grant Professionals Association (GPA) is a good place to begin; try to talk to a human!

If you are a member of a tribe, there are almost certainly grants and loans available through such organizations. You could try organizations such as the Norwegian, Swedish, French or Italian cultural heritage groups as well.

Loans. Many of our students take out Career Training Loans from Sallie Mae. We are approved for federal subsidized loans and grants (Pell Grants and Stafford loans, for example) as well as Veteran's loans. See our comments about loans, above.

Scholarships.

Our students have received scholarships from these organizations (see below for specific information):

- Association of Woodworking and Furnishing Suppliers
- Michigan Boating Foundation
- Connecticut Maritime Foundation
- Rotary Clubs
- [Port Townsend Marine Trades Association](#)
- Youth Maritime Training Association [www.ymta.net](http://www.ymta.net)
- Pacific Maritime Magazine
- Barbara Schwantes Memorial Fund
- Washington State Elks Association
- Tom and D'Anne Majhan Scholarship Fund
- Port Ludlow Artists' League
- Friends of Chimacum Schools Education Foundation
- The Pacific Northwest Tool Collectors

The main task in a successful scholarship search is to match your eligibility with scholarship requirements. Plan to do a lot of "sifting." Start early. Deadlines are often

spring or summer before you want to enroll. (Our classes begin in early October every year).

Plan to spend a good chunk of time on research. The Internet is a good place to start. Did I mention to ask a librarian for help and direction?

Be persistent and do not give up – we know that every year scholarship and grant money often is NOT awarded because no one applied for it!

Call professional organizations related to marine trades, i.e. yacht clubs, maritime centers, maritime unions and marine trade businesses. A brief call—and being unafraid of hearing a “no” answer—is a good way to start.

Here’s a possible script: “This is \_\_\_\_\_ calling and I am applying to attend the Northwest School for Wooden Boat Building. Do you have any scholarships available?” If you get a no, ask if they know of any other organizations or businesses that might.

Think about local civic and service organizations, i.e. Elks, Rotary and Soroptomist. This is particularly a good lead if you have a connection with the group, i.e. a family member or a family friend who is a member.

Ask around, get a contact name and number and repeat the above script, starting with “\_\_\_\_\_ said you are the one to call about possible scholarships. ....”

Think about your family’s work affiliations: Corporate and union. They often offer scholarships to family of employees and members.

Ask about scholarship opportunities at local businesses, i.e. department stores, banks credit unions, grocery stores. Perhaps the local Chamber of Commerce has a list of businesses offering scholarships.

We’ve heard anecdotally that crowd-sourcing is working for some people.

Other sources of information -

If you are high school student, check with your guidance counselor. If you have a *vocational* guidance counselor, check with that person.

College career centers will certainly have information on financial aid.

Work Source (popularly known as the unemployment office in Washington State) may have or know of resources. Your state will certainly have resources as well.

If you are or are about to be a military veteran, you may have retraining money available to you.

Some specific sources and other information we know about:

1. **Youth Maritime Training Association of Seattle (YMTA)** – 206/782-1080, [www.ymta.net](http://www.ymta.net)
2. **The Brier Foundation** – Scholarships for women in the marine trades, 866/746-5913, pinkyflies@thebrierfoundation.org, <http://www.cwu.edu/~scholar/outside/pinkyflies.html>
3. **Port Townsend Marine Trades Association**, PO Box 1214, Port Townsend, WA 98368, ptmta@olyphen.com, partial scholarship to a local person. (This scholarship has already been awarded for 2012-2013 class)
4. **WAVE** – <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/WAVEWebpagenew.asp>. A student is eligible to apply for the WAVE award if currently a state resident enrolled in a Washington State high school, skills center or public community or technical college, and will:
  - a. Graduate from high school having completed a minimum of 360 hours in a single, approved vocational program; or
  - b. Be enrolled in a public community or technical college and complete at least one year (minimum of 360 hours) in an approved vocational program; and
  - c. Not have been a previous WAVE recipient.
5. **National Marine Representative Association (NMRA)** – 847/662-3167, info@nmraonline.org, [www.nmraonline.org](http://www.nmraonline.org). Offers \$1500 scholarships for those interested in pursuing a career in marine industry.
6. **National Merit Scholarship** – up to \$10,000 awarded to high-achieving students based on their scores on the PSAT/NSMQT and SAT.
7. **Project Opportunity** - If you are the first in your family to go to college or are an independent –projectopportunity.net.
8. **Sons of Italy** - \$500 for college or technical school program. Contact Peninsula College, local high school or call 360/452-8677.
9. **Rotary and Elks** both have scholarship opportunities. Nearly every town has these organizations and more – ask for their scholarship and/or grant committees.
10. **ScholarshipAmerica.org** – The nation’s largest nonprofit, private sector scholarship and educational support organization

11. **Michigan State Library** – Some scholarships for Michigan residents only; some national scholarships. Look for a list of other databases about 4/5 of the way down the page. Every state probably has a place like this.
12. **Fastweb** – a comprehensive web site that will help search for scholarships. You can sign up to receive new scholarships that fit your profile all year long, including reminders when deadlines are approaching
13. **College Prowler** - \$2000 for tuition, housing, tools etc. Open to all people planning to enroll in the next 12 months –  
<http://collegeprowler.com/scholarship/apply.aspx>
14. **Straight Forward Media Vocational-Technical Scholarship** - \$500 –  
[www.straightforwardmedia.com/sfm/scholarships.html](http://www.straightforwardmedia.com/sfm/scholarships.html)
15. **Barbara Schwantes Scholarship** - \$500 from Pacific Coast Congress of Harbormasters and Port Managers - High School senior interested in Maritime Education in CA, OR, WA, AK, B.C. Canada
16. **Careers that Work! Scholarship Program** - \$1000 award to High School graduates in WA, OR, and ID. [www.nwcareercolleges.org](http://www.nwcareercolleges.org) or 425-376-0369
17. **Veteran Appreciation Award Program** - \$500 and \$1000 waivers for active duty military or honorably discharged post 9/11 veterans – [www.nwcareercolleges.org](http://www.nwcareercolleges.org)
18. **The Pacific Northwest Tool Collectors scholarship** is one that you may want to check out. You can find out more information at <http://www.tooltimer.com/PNTC.htm> and at <http://www.tooltimer.com/PNTCScholar.htm>; follow the guidelines exactly, especially their format and deadline rules.
19. A wide variety of **woodworking scholarships** is available at <http://www.woodindustryed.org/Scholarships.aspx> .

Books and websites found in a local (Port Angeles) library:

1. Directory of Financial Aids for Women by Schlachter and David
2. Scholarship Grants and Prizes by Petersons/Thompson
3. The Scholarship Book by Daviel Cassidy
4. Website: Foundation Grants to Individuals in the Foundation Directory Online published by the Foundation Center

Good luck in your search and feel free to contact us here at the School with questions. Please let us know how your search is going and how we might best support you. We look forward to welcoming you to the class of 2014!

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