

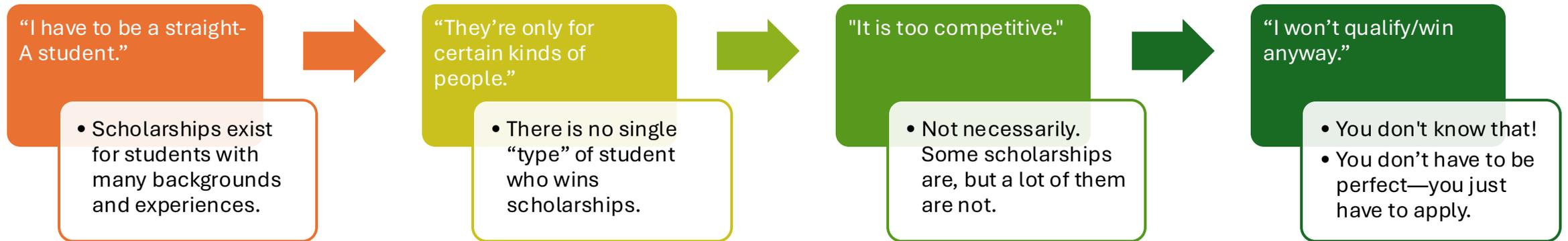
# Off-Campus Scholarships

Cristy Rodriguez Rivas,  
Scholarship Technician  
Moorpark College Scholarship Office



SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE  
MOORPARK COLLEGE

# Myth vs. Reality



# Defining a Scholarship

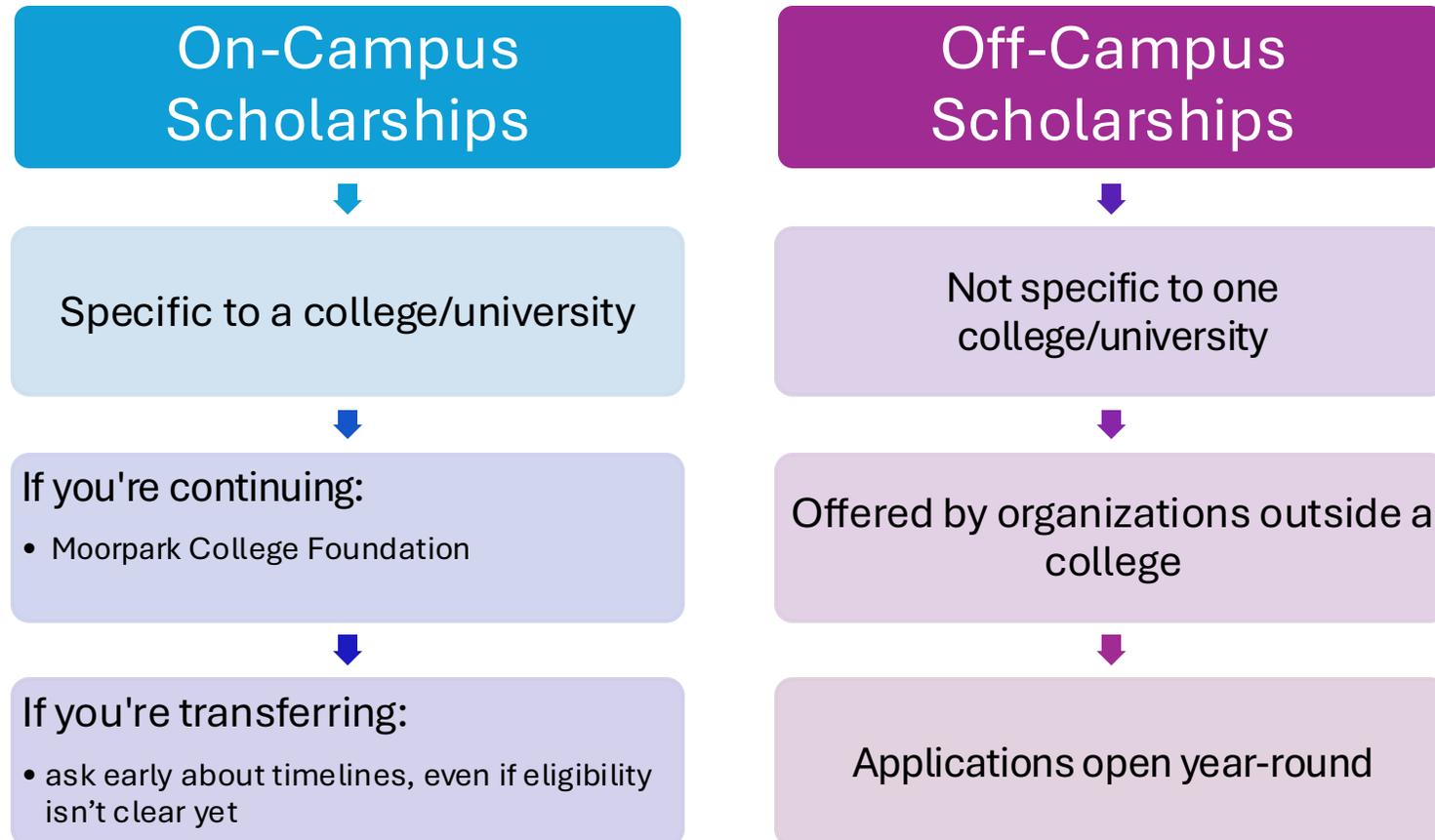
## What is a scholarship?

- Money to help pay for college
- Privately funded (Nonprofits, donors, private companies)
- Gift aid – does not need to be paid back

## How can I use a scholarship?

- Cover a variety of expenses like tuition, books, supplies, and more.
- Put it on your résumé
- Supplement your Financial Aid

# On-Campus vs. Off-Campus Scholarships



# Where can I look for scholarships?



## Search Online

Scholarship search databases

Check our [Off-Campus Scholarships page](#)



## Tap Into Your Network

Community organizations

Friends, family, professors, mentors, supervisors, and employers



## Expand Your Reach

Reach out to Nonprofits, Companies or other Organizations

Consider joining professional organizations

So... How Do I Win Scholarships?

# Get Organized

## Track:

- Scholarship name & sponsor
- Due date
- Website
- Required materials

## Block strategy:

- Research block – build your list
- Planning block – decide what to apply for first
- Repeat regularly

# Scholarship Essays: Why They Matter & How to Write Them

## Why essays matter

- Essays help donors and review committees decide who is the best fit
- Scholarship essays are a blend of academic writing and cover-letter writing

## How to write strong essays

- Be authentic—use your own voice and experiences
- Connect the scholarship to your academic and career goals
- Be clear about how the scholarship supports your journey

## Support & reminders

- Get feedback (Writing Center, Scholarship Office, trusted readers)
- Generative AI can help you brainstorm or revise—but should not write the essay for you

# Getting Great Recommendations

## Who to Ask

- Someone who knows you academically or professionally
- Examples: professor, instructor, supervisor, coach, counselor

## How to Ask

- Ask at least 2 weeks before the deadline
- Confirm what's required (form vs. letter)
- Share the scholarship name, deadline, and your goals

## Always Follow Up

- Send a thank-you email after they submit

# Apply Often

- Start with one application—**consistency beats perfection**
- Each application builds confidence, skill, and speed
- More applications = **more chances to win**
- Smaller awards can **add up over time**
  
- **You don't need to be perfect—you just need to start.**

# Scholarship Office Contact

- Cristy Rodriguez Rivas, Scholarship Technician
- Phone: (805) 378-1418
- Email: [mcscholar@vcccd.edu](mailto:mcscholar@vcccd.edu)
- [www.moorparkcollege.edu/scholarship](http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/scholarship)
- [Off-Campus Scholarship Page](#)

