

Preparing for Distinguished Scholarships: A 4-year roadmap template

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Focus on your passion	What issues are you most passionate about? How can you connect to those passions through academics, leadership, and involvement? How will you contribute to these areas after college, and how will a scholarship enable you to do so?			
Academic Achievements	Seek out learning opportunities that will help you explore topics you are passionate about. Apply for first-year level awards, such as Library Research Prize. Take advantage of campus resources that support your academic achievement. Prioritize academic success.	Seek out coursework that connects to your passion. Apply for awards and join honor societies. Prioritize academic success.	Continue to seek out coursework that connects to your passion. Seek out opportunities to publish and present your work. Apply for awards and join honor societies. Prioritize academic success.	Consider how senior research could help you take a deeper dive into your passion area. Continue to seek out coursework that connects to your passion. Apply for awards and join honor societies. Prioritize academic success.
Leadership	Pursue opportunities to build on or fill gaps related to passion area in campus or community. Meet and get to know leaders and experts in that area.	Seek out leadership positions that connect to passion.	Seek out leadership positions with increasingly higher levels of responsibility that connect to passion.	Continue to seek out leadership positions with increasingly higher levels of responsibility that connect to passion.
Involvement	Find ways to get involved on campus or in the community that relate to your passion. Stay up to date on current events, esp. those related to your passion. Find productive way to spend summer.	Continue campus and community involvement and keep up with current events. Use summer productively.	Continue campus and community involvement and keep up with current events. Use summer productively.	Continue campus and community involvement and keep up with current events.
Scholarship application progress	Educate yourself on scholarship/fellowship opportunities. Discuss options with the external scholarships advisor and your academic advisor. Consider drafting a personalized roadmap. Cultivate relationships with faculty/staff mentors.	Consider applying for an external scholarship that is open to sophomores or juniors. Update roadmap and resume. Cultivate relationships with faculty/staff mentors.	Begin preparing application. Seek advice from campus resources. Research grad school options. Identify potential recommenders and continue cultivating relationships with them.	Polish and submit application. Create a Plan B to pursue if you are not selected.