A recommender should be a person of authority who knows you well enough to attest to your merits, potential, and personal qualities. You should always get a recommendation from at least one professor from your class. If you don’t have someone to ask, then it’s important to start building these relationships.

Request a meeting with the recommender at least three weeks prior to the deadline. Provide information regarding the scholarship, company background, and your qualifications. Kindly explain what you’re applying for, why you qualify, and why you are requesting recommendation from them.

Follow-up with your recommender one week prior to the deadline and give them a friendly reminder. It is your responsibility to ensure that your letters of recommendation arrive on time. Send a thank you note to your recommender after the deadline and let them know the results of your scholarship application as well.

Be sure to dress in appropriate business attire. Start by introducing yourself and shaking hands with the interviewers. Throughout the interview, maintain eye contact and good posture.

Take the time to do some research on the organization. Familiarize yourself with the organization granting the scholarship and their mission. What are they looking for? How do you meet the requirements?

Come prepared to talk about yourself and your qualifications based on your scholarship application. Prepare with some questions to ask the interviewers as well.

Don’t forget to let your personality show through. Provide examples and anecdotes from your life experiences. The interviewers want to get to know you and to hear your story.

Common Interview Questions
- Why are you pursuing this major?
- What are your career aspirations and how do you plan to achieve them?
- How do you contribute to the campus and/or the community?

The State of California requires that you be told the following: Federal student loans are available to most students regardless of income and provide a range of repayment options including income-based repayment plans and loan forgiveness benefits, which other education loans are not required to provide.