

# Scholarships

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lating because something like this has never happened with hotel college scholarships."

According to Eileen McGarry, director of the Career Planning and Placement Center, errors like these are important because employers use misspelled words and grammatical errors to weed out unworthy candidates.

"It (a grammatical error) has a very negative effect," McGarry said. "You may think it is minute but it isn't."

Although she was critical of the mistake, McGarry said the committee might have had a reason for ignoring it. "If there is a need to give out scholarships because of a lack of applicants, that would be a reason for justifying it," she said.

According to Engstrom, more than 80 students applied for 28 communication scholarships last year. She said that when the applications are reviewed, grammatical and usage errors are taken in context, along with factors like GPA.

"I take things like that seriously," Engstrom said. "But that doesn't say your 3.94 is thrown out the window because you didn't proofread your biographical statement. We can't say 'if you get one thing wrong, don't apply.'"

A source in the school of communication studies—who requested anonymity—said in the past things like this have happened because the committee didn't have time to read all the applications. As a result, the same students are rewarded over and over again.

"Just look at the (communication scholarship) plaques," the source said. "The same names have been on them every year. Things may be different with Erika (Engstrom) as chair."

Engstrom explained the scholarship process and said it does not always favor the same students. "We get faculty input as well," Engstrom said. "I want to stress that it isn't favoritism, it is a consensual thing."

"The first thing we look at is grade point average," said Engstrom. "It is reflective of your college career. If you've done

poorly, then you're going to have a poor GPA. Our limit is 3.0 for giving scholarships. That is the main thing. If you don't have a 3.0, sorry. That's the whole point of scholarship, it's scholar. If you are a scholar, that's what scholarship is named after. If you're looking for a scholarship, you've got to have the grades."

"I don't think grades are that much different from working a job. When you're in college your job is to go to school and your job is to maintain a good, reflective evaluation of what you can do."

"The main reason you go to college is not to get a job. You go to learn and to be a better person."

Engstrom said scholarships aren't solely given on grades.

"We also look at class standing and consistency in grades. GPA doesn't always reflect everything you (the student) have done, so we like to look at transcripts as well. And we also look at any supporting material."

This year, at least 25 scholarships are available from the Greenspun School of Communication Studies. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Monday.

Daniel W. Duffy contributed to this story.

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