

College and Career - Paying for College

Paying For College

Finances can be one of the most confusing and challenging topics that come with going to college, but it doesn't have to be! If you are a student, it is important to talk about what kind of resources you will need to pay for college. There are two main ways people pay for college – through financial aid and through scholarships.

Financial Aid

It is important that every year you are in college (and in your senior year before starting college), you file for a FAFSA – a Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Depending on your eligibility and family income, the government can award you monies for school, in different ways. Let's take a look at some of the main types of federal aid.

- Grants – this is money the government awards you that DOES NOT need to be paid back
- Scholarships – there are a wide variety of scholarships available that you can apply for (see below) – if you are the recipient of a scholarship award, you do not need to pay this money back
- Loans – a loan is money you can borrow from the government, but does need to be paid back (depending on your loan policies, you can begin paying off the loan in college or after you graduate college)
- Work-Study – this provides undergraduate and graduate students with part time jobs (typically in their field of study), so they can be working and in college

Need help learning how to apply for financial aid? Or where to find the FAFSA? Links are found below.

Redirects to Official Government FAFSA Page: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Redirects to Official Government Loan Page:

<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-college.html?src=pn>

Official Government Federal Aid Page:

<https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid/how-aid-works>

Scholarships

Here is a list of many scholarships available to you. Each of these is tested for reliability and legitimacy. Be careful when applying for scholarships! Some are fake to try to get your security information. If a scholarship says it is “guaranteed you'll win,” it is not legitimate.



Also, do not give out personal information like your social security number, and keep in mind that scholarships are there to aid you – so if they require a fee to apply, they are not legitimate scholarships.

Scholarship Links:

- <https://www.cfsww.org/how-we-grant/scholarships/>
- <https://waopportunityscholarship.org/scholarship-supports/scholarship/new-applicants/>
- http://kmrgrp.com/?page_id=2722

Safe Scholarship Search Engines:

- <http://www.thewashboard.org>
- <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>
- <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/by-state/washington-scholarships>
- <https://www.reviews.com/best-scholarship-search-platforms/>

