

## Financial Aid & Scholarships

Cost is important, but do not eliminate a school because of the sticker price until you know what kind of financial aid you will receive.

### The “condensed” Steps in the Financial Aid Process

- Learn everything you can about the financial aid process
- You (the student) **AND** at least one parent must create your own FSA ID to electronically sign the FAFSA and complete other federal/state financial aid forms. Apply online at [www.fsaidth.gov](http://www.fsaidth.gov)
- Fill out the FAFSA (**FREE** Application for Federal Student Aid) after October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Ask **EACH** college you are interested in if forms in addition to the FAFSA are required
- Watch college financial aid deadlines, especially priority deadlines. Financial Aid deadlines matter! Most aid programs operate on a first come first serve basis.
- Receive award letters from mid-January to March and make your final determination!

### Financial Aid Websites

<a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov">www.studentaid.ed.gov</a>	Dept. of Ed’s gateway to financial aid information
<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>	FAFSA on the web
<a href="http://www.fsaidth.gov">www.fsaidth.gov</a>	Federal Student Aid online system
<a href="http://www.nasfaa.org">www.nasfaa.org</a>	National Assoc. of Student Financial Aid Administrators
<a href="http://www.oasfaa.org">www.oasfaa.org</a>	Ohio Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

### Researching Scholarships

A good beginning step is to identify possible scholarship options specific to you by using an internet scholarship search engine such as [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). A good second source for identifying scholarship opportunities is to reach out to your community and identify local sponsored scholarship opportunities. Many of these opportunities can be found in the counselor’s office, but you may want to contact people in the community such as community leaders, parent’s employers, business and industrial groups or other professional organizations to see if they sponsor scholarships.

Also, check with each college after you are admitted for scholarships specific to the college and/or your anticipated major. Most colleges have an online scholarship search tool that will assist you.

### Scholarship Tips

1. Apply only if you’re eligible
2. Complete the application in full
3. Follow directions
4. Neatness counts
5. Make sure your essay make an impression
6. Watch out for deadlines
7. Make copies before sending
8. Give it a final “once over”
9. Ask for help if you need it
10. Remember the scholarship application represents you

### Quick Scam Warning Signs

- A fee
- A “money-back guarantee”
- Requests for your credit card or bank account