

Resources for Financial Aid Information

Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA)

All colleges and universities require their students to fill out the FAFSA to be considered for financial aid. You can complete an application at your own pace on the internet and can easily check the status of it later.

- Before completing the FAFSA online, you must obtain a FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.
- With your FSA ID, go to fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA website also has useful information about other financial aid programs offered by the government.
- Financial aid is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Fill out the application as soon as possible. Applications open in October. The federal deadline for submitting your FAFSA is June 30. You can change the information later if necessary.
- If you prefer to receive a paper FAFSA form, call 1.800.4.FED.AID. You can also request other federal publications, such as "Funding Education Beyond High School" and receive help with questions and concerns.

Free Scholarship Searches and Internet Resources

While numerous companies offer scholarship search services for a fee, you can find all of the same information yourself with a little bit of work. Some good places to start searching are:

- Princeton Review: princetonreview.com
- Scholarships.com: scholarships.com
- Fastweb: fastweb.com

Other Useful Sites

- finaid.org: You can estimate your EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) now to plan ahead financially. Includes links to scholarship searches, colleges financial aid pages, student loan information and more.
- scholarsnapp.org: Allows students to apply for scholarships online and then automatically re-use that information for other scholarship applications without retyping their data again and again.
- nasfaa.org: The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators web site gives general information on aid. Look under the tab "Parents & Students." The site also includes links to other information pages, including NCAA regulations.
- studentaid.ed.gov: The U.S. Department of Education site supplies information on Federal Student Aid programs, including maximum awards and eligibility.
- collegeboard.org: The College Board provides general information, registration and test dates for the SAT.
- actstudent.org: This site has information on the ACT, including dates, practice tests and financial aid.
- salliemae.com: Sallie Mae presents good general information, a general, step-by-step financial aid application process explanation and information on student loans.
- collegeincolorado.org: Here you will find information on student services for the colleges and universities in Colorado, test preparation, career options, higher education opportunities, college planning tools and more.
- bigfuture.collegeboard.org: Designed with the input of students and educators, this site's step-by-step approach will make the college planning process easier to navigate.

Books

There are hundreds of books about college scholarships. Here are some to get you started:

- The Boettcher Foundation's book, *All the Wisdom and None of the Junk: Secrets of Applying for College Admission and Scholarships*, available at boettcherfoundation.org/scholarship-book.
- Colorado Council on High School/College Relations, *Colorado Collegiate Handbook* – best for in-state information. To order, see your counselor or visit coloradocouncil.org.
- The College Board *Scholarship Handbook*
- Peterson's *College Money Handbook*