

College Financial Aid and College Scholarships

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Presenter

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What is Financial Aid?

- ✓ Financial aid is assistance that helps pay the difference between your family's determined ability to pay, and
- ✓ What it will actually cost for you to go to college.

Who Should Apply?

- ✓ Any student whose family is unable to met the costs of a college education is encouraged to apply for financial aid.

How do I Apply?

- ✓ Complete the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) by February 1, 2006
- ✓ FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov or form you high school counselor.
- ✓ This form is required for all federal aid eligiblity and for the Cal Grant program.

Who Is Eligible?

- ✓ All full-time regularly admitted students with demonstrated financial need who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. are eligible for financial aid.

How is Financial Aid Need Determined?

- ✓ Using your completed FAFSA application, the federal government determines your expected family contribution (EFC) or the amount of money you and your parents can be expected to contribute to your college costs.
- ✓ Your college then applies a simple equation to decide how much financial aids you will need.

How Does It Work?

- ✓ Your college determines the "Cost of Attendance" (COA)
- ✓ They subtract your "expected Family Contribution" (EFC)
- ✓ That equals your "Financial Need" (FN)
- ✓ Formula:
 - $COA - EFC = FN$

Federal Student Program	Type of Aid	Program Details	Annual Maximum Award Limits
Federal Pell Grant	Grant does not have to be repaid (FREE)	Available almost exclusively to undergrads. All eligible students will receive Federal Pell Grants	\$4,050 for 2003-04. The amount for 2005-06 will depend on program funding
Federal Suppl. Educ. Opp. Grant	Grant does not have to be repaid (FREE)	For undergrads with great financial need. Federal Pell Grant recipients have priority. Funds depend on availability at your college.	\$4,000
Federal Work Study	Money is earned while attending school. It does not have to be repaid (FREE)	For undergrads and grads Jobs can be on or off campus. Students are paid minimum wage.	No annual maximum.

Federal Student Program	Type of Aid	Program Details	Annual Maximum Award Limits
Federal Perkins Loan	Loan must be repaid.	5% loans for both undergrads and grads. Payment is owed to the school that made the loan.	\$4,000 for undergrads and \$6,00 for grads.
Subsidized FFEL or Direct Stafford Loan	Loan must be repaid.	Subsidized: U.S. Dept. of Education pays interest while borrower is in school and during grace and deferment periods.	\$2,625 to \$18,500 depending on grade level.
Unsubsidized FFEL or Direct Stafford Loan	Loan must be repaid.	Unsubsidized: Borrower is responsible for interest during life of loan	\$2,625 to \$18,500 Includes any subsidized loans received
Federal PLUS Loan	Loan must be repaid.	Available to parents of dependent undergrads	Cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received.

Financial Aid Packages

Family Income	% Who Received Awards	Average Award	Range of Awards
\$ 0 - \$ 15K	100%	\$36,562	\$10K - \$41K
\$ 15K - \$ 30K	100%	\$34,103	\$ 8K - \$41K
\$ 30K - \$ 45K	96%	\$35,634	\$10K - \$40K
\$ 45K - \$ 60K	90%	\$32,910	\$16K - \$41K
\$ 60K - \$ 75K	90%	\$27,017	\$ 3K - \$37K
\$ 75K - \$ 90K	83%	\$22,075	\$ 3K - \$33K
\$ 90K - \$105K	80%	\$18,371	\$ 2K - \$26K
\$105K - \$150K	62%	\$12,014	\$ 2K - \$26K
Over \$150K	18%	\$10,170	\$ 1K - \$24K

Cal Grant Program

- ✓ The California Student Aid Commission administers the Cal Grant Program.
- ✓ Your completed your FAFSA application is used along with your completed Cal Grant GPA Verification Form to apply for Cal Grants.
- ✓ Cal Grant A = \$600 to \$9,708 per year and requires a minimum 3.0 GPA
- ✓ Cal Grant B \$1,551 to \$11,258 per year and requires a minimum 2.0 GPA
- ✓ Deadline: March 2, 2006.

Cal Grant Program Income Ceilings

- ✓ Cal Grant A and C Recipients – Income ceilings for dependent students and independent students other than a spouse:
- ✓ \$62,500 for a family of 2
- ✓ \$64,000 for a family of 3
- ✓ \$69,600 for a family of 4
- ✓ \$74,500 for a family of 5
- ✓ \$80,400 for a family of 6 or more

**Cal Grant Program
Income Ceilings**

- ✓ Cal Grant A, B and C Recipients – Income ceilings for independent students without dependents:
- ✓ \$25,500 if single; or
- ✓ \$29,000 if married

**Cal Grant Program
Income Ceilings**

- ✓ Cal Grant B Recipients – Income ceilings are:
- ✓ \$29,200 for a family of 2
- ✓ \$32,900 for a family of 3
- ✓ \$36,600 for a family of 4
- ✓ \$40,900 for a family of 5
- ✓ \$44,200 for a family of 6 or more

Independent College Scholarships

- ✓ There are thousands college scholarship programs that award millions of free scholarship money to worthy students every month. These students demonstrate:
 - Academic promise
 - Leadership
 - Community/Civic Service, and
 - Financial Need

Definitions

- ✓ **Scholarship** – Usually requires a 3.0 GPA. However, some scholarships require 2.5 GPA and others 2.0 GPA
- ✓ **Character** – the student upholds moral principles; student is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others
- ✓ **Service** – A quality demonstrated by voluntary contributions to the school, or community, done without compensation, and with a positive, courteous and enthusiastic spirit
- ✓ **Leadership** – Student is resourceful, good problem solver, promoter of school or community activities, idea contributor, dependable, exemplifies positive attitudes about life.
- ✓ **Citizenship** – Student demonstrates and understands the importance of civic involvement, has a high regard for freedom, justice, and democracy. Demonstrates mature participation and responsibility through involvement with such activities as scouting, community organizations, school clubs, voting and election process.

How Can I Apply?

- ✓ Searching the Internet, you can obtain hundreds of free applications for college scholarships
- ✓ Simply type in the search words "Scholarships" and you will be amazed at the college scholarship opportunities that are available for you
- ✓ Most popular sites:
 - ✓ www.fastweb.com
 - ✓ www.collegeboard.com
 - ✓ www.hsf.net
 - ✓ www.chciyouth.org
 - ✓ www.telacu.com
 - ✓ www.coca-colascholars.org

Successful Scholarship Searches

- ✓ Begin early.
- ✓ Use all your resources (teachers, school counselors, after school programs, etc.)
- ✓ Search for college scholarships for high school students
- ✓ Once you locate these scholarships, download or print the application
- ✓ Read the application carefully.

Successful Scholarship Searches

- ✓ Look for the deadline dates and organize the scholarships according to deadline dates
- ✓ Place each application in a separate folder by "month" (Jan thru Dec) according to the deadline date
- ✓ Look for the application checklist and follow it precisely. If a checklist is not provided, then create one

Successful Scholarship Searches

- ✓ Although some scholarship applications have different requirements, most will ask for:
 - Completed Application
 - Official/Unofficial Transcripts
 - SAT I or ACT scores
 - Essay (Varies According to Scholarship)
 - Recommendation Letter(s)
 - Proof of Community/Civic Service
 - Financial Need Statement – Free Application for Federal Aid (FASFA), Student Aid Report (SAR), Parents IRS 1040 Statement
 - U.S. Citizenship or Legal Permanent Residency (Some scholarships do not ask for legal status)

Application – Read Carefully

- ✓ Check Deadline Date/Time/Submission Rules
 - Obtain 2 copies or make a photocopy of the application if permissible
 - Make a checklist if one is not provided
- ✓ Begin to answer application question on photocopy. This is your **Draft Copy!**
 - Complete application. Make sure the information is correct
 - Request your transcripts and recommendations at least 3 weeks before the deadline date
- ✓ Create a Word document file for your essay questions, ie, HSF Essay 1, HSF Essay 2, HSF Essay 3. Develop your essay drafts using "word count" feature under Tools on MS Word to avoid exceeding word limit rule!

Application – Cont'd

- ✓ Once you completed your drafts, ask your English teacher, or school counselor to review your draft. Make your edits on your essays and short answers.
- ✓ Now type your final copy using your corrected draft. Review for typos and completeness.
- ✓ Make a photocopy of the completed application for your records and keep in a safe place
- ✓ Submit your completed scholarship application by mail or online in accordance with their RULES!

Transcripts

- ✓ Read the Rules - Most scholarship programs require "Official Transcripts"
- ✓ Request 2 copies - Open only 1 to make sure the transcript information is correct and current to comply with the scholarship requirements. If there are any errors or omissions, inform your admissions officer immediately for correction. This is now your Unofficial Transcript. If it is correct, you may make copies for other scholarships that accept unofficial transcripts
- ✓ The second transcript is your Official Transcript. Do not open envelope or break seal. It becomes an Unofficial Transcript if seal is broken and most scholarships will disqualify your application
- ✓ Most scholarship programs require that transcripts be mailed together with your application packet. However, some scholarship programs require that transcripts be sent directly to them by school. CHECK THE RULES!

SAT I/ACT Scores

- ✓ If an unofficial transcript is okay, then photocopy the SAT I or ACT service results letter sent to you and include the copy in your packet
- ✓ However, some scholarship programs require official SAT I or ACT scores. Ask your high school if they post your SAT I or ACT scores on your transcripts. If so, then your Official Transcript with scores is permissible.
- ✓ If your school does not post your scores, then you will need
 - ✓ Pay the SAT I or ACT service to mail official copies, or
 - ✓ To pay and acquire a copy online from the SAT I or ACT service

Personal Statement

- ✓ Your essay should respond to the question(s) ask by the scholarship program
- ✓ Make an outline for each question and focus on key question elements
- ✓ Describe how your personal character and core family values have been important to your academic success
- ✓ Describe one or two examples of how you had to overcome obstacles to achieve success
- ✓ Describe how your future academic and career goals impact your family, community, city, state, nation and/or humanity

Personal Statement - Outline

- ✓ **Family History** – Immigrant Story
- ✓ **Core Values** – Love, Respect, Honesty, Commitment to Freedom/Justice/Education/Equality/Improving Quality of Life For All/Communities of Color
- ✓ **Overcoming Life Obstacles** – Poverty, Special Family Circumstance, Cultural, Linguistic, Physical/Learning Disability
- ✓ **Academic Goals** – 1st High School Grad, 1st College Grad, 1st Professional
- ✓ **Career Goals** – Lawyer, Doctor, Engineer, Teacher, etc.
- ✓ **Lifetime Achievement Goal** – How Your Career Success Will Change or Benefit Your Community, City, State, Nation or Humanity

Essays

- ✓ Your essay should respond to the question(s) asked by the scholarship program
- ✓ Make an outline for each question and focus on key question elements
- ✓ Describe how your personal character and core family values have been important to your academic success
- ✓ Describe one or two examples of how you had to overcome obstacles to achieve success
- ✓ Describe how your success has or will impact your family, community, city, state and/or nation in the future

Recommendations

- ✓ Ask a teacher, school counselor or community leader for a recommendation letter based on your academic achievements and/or community/civic service activities at least one month before the deadline date
- ✓ Provide them with a copy of the recommendation form (if required), your resume and/or personal statement
- ✓ Give them the name and address of the scholarship program
- ✓ Make sure they know the deadline date to submit their recommendation letter according to the scholarship program rules

Community/Civic Essay

- ✓ Your essay should respond to the question(s) asked by the scholarship program
- ✓ Make an outline for each question and focus on key question elements
- ✓ Describe how your involvement was key to achieving the project success
- ✓ Describe one or two examples of your interaction with persons who benefited from your involvement
- ✓ Describe their reaction to receiving the project benefits
- ✓ Describe how many persons were impacted by your involvement
- ✓ Describe how you overcame obstacles to achieve project goals
- ✓ Inform them that your project can be replicated or copied in other communities in the United States

Community/Civic Service

- ✓ Demonstrated initiative in achieving success for the community/civic activity
 - Created community/school awareness and initiated program to provide food/toys for homeless
- ✓ Significant impact to target population served
 - Served 500 homeless families with food/toys for the holidays
- ✓ May be replicated in other communities
 - Community/civic program can be easily created in other communities

Leadership Essay

- ✓ Your essay should respond to the question(s) asked by the scholarship program
- ✓ Make an outline for each question and focus on key question elements
- ✓ Describe how your leadership/initiative was key to the activity
- ✓ Describe one or two examples of your leadership decisions and interaction with others who you led changed the situation from negative to positive
- ✓ Describe how you overcame physical, financial, social, cultural, linguistic or other obstacles to achieve success
- ✓ Describe how your leadership impacted yourself, your team, school, and/or community, state and nation (if appropriate)

Leadership

- ✓ Demonstrated leadership in academic, extracurricular activities, sports and community/civic service are crucial.
- ✓ **Academic** – GPA, National Honor Roll, National Honor Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, California Scholarship Federation, Principal's Honor Roll
- ✓ **Extracurricular** - Model United Nations, Academic Decathlon, Speech, Mock Trial, Student Government
- ✓ **Sports/Cheer** - Captain or Co-Captain, Varsity Honors, League Honors, State Honors, National Honors
- ✓ **Community/Civic** – Internships (Congress, Assembly, Senate, Business, Government Agency), Community Volunteer (Hospital, Health Clinic, Nursing Home for Elderly, Meals on Wheels, United Way, Red Cross, Police/Fire, Library, Park, Sports/Cheer, School Tutoring/Mentoring Children/Peers, Day Care Center, Summer Camp, Scout Program, Boys & Girls Club, Political Campaign)

Leadership Programs

- ✓ Recommended Leadership Programs:
 - Congressional Award Program
 - www.congressionalaward.org
 - Calif. Chicano/Latino Leadership Program
 - www.civil.com
 - National Junior Statesmen Program
 - www.jsa.org (USC Symposium on Leadership & Politics)
 - Presidential Classroom Scholar Program
 - www.presidentialclassroom.org
 - National Student Leadership Conference
 - www.nslc.org
 - Academy for Business Leadership Program
 - www.aabl.com
 - Journalism Camp
 - www.aajsa.org
 - Cal Tech Engineering Program
 - www.cetep.org

Financial Need Statement

- ✓ Write a paragraph that describes your family's financial situation and your financial need to attend college
 - Family household is large and income is very low – use the total income figure reported on federal 1040 income tax
 - Explain any special family circumstances that impact home:
 - Single parent family
 - Family is receiving government assistance – Welfare, food stamps, school lunch, WIC, Social Security, Disability checks
 - Primary language spoken at home is non-English
 - Parent educational attainment is less than high school or education was obtained in a foreign country
 - Live with grandparents, or other family members

Final Steps

- ✓ Make sure to follow the scholarship program rules for completing application
- ✓ Proof read your entire application
- ✓ Ask your teacher or counselor to proof and review your application for completeness
- ✓ Mail or submit your application online in accordance with their rules at least two days before the deadline.
- ✓ Check via email or phone call with the scholarship program that they received your application before the deadline

Conclusion

- ✓ The more scholarship application you submit, the greater the likelihood you will receive an independent college scholarship award
- ✓ Keep Positive and Good Luck!
- ✓ For further information, please contact me at angel_obregon@msn.com
