

Finding Money for College



A Few Important Terms:

Financial aid

- money to help you pay for college

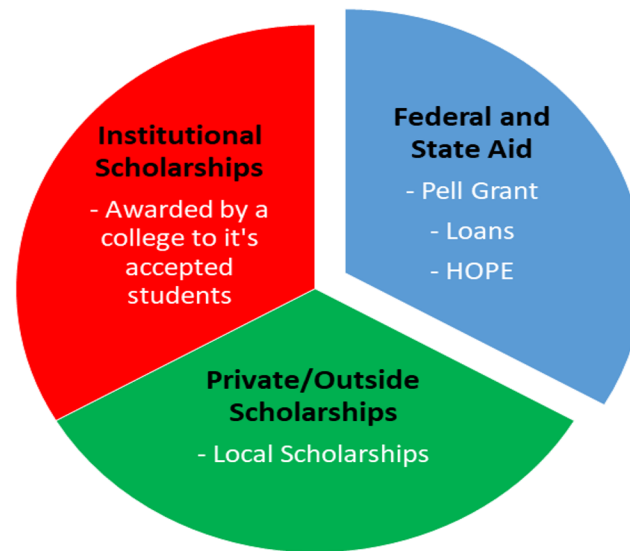
Scholarships

- free money from schools or independent providers, usually based on some eligibility requirements and an application (e.g. an essay). You do NOT have to pay them back.

Grants

- free money from schools or the government, based on financial need. You do NOT have to pay them back.

3 Sources of Financial Aid



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Federal and State Aid



Federal Aid - What is it?

- This is aid provided by the federal (national) government.
- It is allocated based on the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form.
- The amount a student is eligible for is based on the college and his/her family's financial situation.
- Even for students whose parents are relatively high income, completing the FAFSA is a good idea because it may be a requirement to receive certain college scholarships.



Main Types of Federal Aid

- Federal Pell Grant
 - (based on financial need, does not need to be repaid)
- Student Loans
- Work-Study jobs (based on financial need)



Federal Aid - How to Apply for it?

Fill out the FAFSA form!

- You can do this for free online at fafsa.gov,
- On your phone by downloading the FAFSA mobile app,
- Or by filling out the paper FAFSA form and mailing it in.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2022 - 2023 school year opens **October 1, 2021**.

The FAFSA must be completed every year.



State Aid in Georgia - What is it?

- This is financial aid given to students living in the state.
- It is usually only available for students staying in-state for college.

Examples of State Aid Available in Georgia:

- Scholarships and grants based on academic merit
 - Zell Miller Scholarship
 - HOPE Scholarship
 - Zell Miller Grant
 - HOPE Grant
- Georgia HERO Scholarship Program
- Public Safety Memorial Grant



State Aid in Georgia - How to Apply for it?

Students have two options when applying for the Zell Miller and HOPE Scholarships:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or,
- Complete the online Georgia Student Finance Application (GSFAPP) on GAfutures.org

Applications for additional Georgia grants and scholarships can be found on GAfutures.org.



Private Scholarships

(also referred to as 'outside' or 'local' scholarships)



What Are Private Scholarships?

- These are scholarships provided by someone other than the government or the specific college.
- There are thousands of them, offered by schools, employers, individuals, private companies, nonprofits, communities, religious groups, and professional and social organizations.
- A scholarship might cover the entire cost of your tuition, or it might be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars. Either way, it's worth applying for, because it'll help reduce the cost of your education.



Scholarship Eligibility Could Be Based On:

Academic merit (grades or ACT/SAT scores)

Intended college major or field of study

Specific talent or skill:

- Athletic
- Artistic
- Musical, etc

Personal attributes:

- Height
- Handedness
- Hair color
- Being a twin

Unusual criteria:

- Ancestry
- Last name
- Parents, grandparents, etc serving/served in the military
- Unusual life experiences or circumstances

Hobbies and interests

Medical conditions

Place of employment



Where To Look For Private Scholarships

I. Memberships:

- Company a parent works for
- Company the student works for
- Church or religious organization
- Civic groups or community organizations

II. Google search for scholarships with factors unique to the student.

- Students often have the most success when applying for less competitive scholarships.
- These are usually the ones with the most restrictive eligibility requirements (such as a combination of unique criteria listed previously).
- Since that can be a unique combination, fewer people are eligible to apply, so there is a higher chance of being selected for that scholarship.



Where To Look For Private Scholarships (cont'd)

III. Scholarship search engines, such as:

- www.fastweb.com
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- www.scholarships.com
- www.fastaid.com
- goingmery.com

IV. JHS Student Services website:

As we receive notifications of scholarships, we add them to a Local Scholarship List on our website.

- JHS Foundation Scholarships
- JCCO Scholarships

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Institutional Scholarships



Institutional Scholarships

- Awarded by a college or university to its accepted students
- Colleges list their institutional scholarships on their financial aid web page.

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Scholarship FAQ



When do I apply for scholarships?

- That depends on each scholarship's deadline. Some deadlines are as early as a year before college starts.
- The ideal time for researching and beginning to apply for scholarships is during the summer between your junior and senior years.



How do I apply for scholarships?

- Each scholarship has its own requirements. The scholarship's website should give you an idea of who qualifies for the scholarship and how to apply.
- Make sure you read the application carefully, fill it out completely, and meet the application deadline.



How do I get my scholarship money?

- That depends on the scholarship.
 - The money might go directly to your college, where it will be applied to any tuition, fees, or other amounts you owe, or
 - The money might be sent directly to the student by check.
- The scholarship provider should explain how the funds will be dispersed when it notifies the student that he/she has been awarded the scholarship.