YOU NEED OUR HELP!

College Financial Aid Process

Do I need financial help in order to go to college?

- No → I can easily pay for 100% of college expenses.
  - Need-based aid most likely will NOT be available to you. However, merit-based scholarships (academics) and talent-based scholarships (exceptional athletic, science, or English compostion skills) may be available depending on your situation.
- Yes → "How much can I afford to pay?"
  - "I have little or no money for college."
  - "I have ability to pay some expenses, but need supplemental financial assistance."
  - For both situations, the process of applying for aid is generally the same.

Apply for NEED-based scholarships, grants and loans.

National & Local Scholarships (Winning criteria based on academic success and/or quality of community service)
- Find these through high school announcements and by using Fastweb.com
- Complete applications, essays, and other documents as reqauired. May involve interviews with scholarship selection committees. (Oct-May)
- Notification of winners varies (based on each contest deadline). Generally during spring semester.

Campus-Based (Directly from colleges)
- Federal FAFSA application always required. Generally no additional documents are required beyond the admission application. (Some colleges require CSS/PROFILE & additional applications.)
- Notification: Financial Aid Award Letter mailed to students in late March - early April.
- Accept or reject need-based financial aid offers by May 1.

Federal & State
- Submit FAFSA. Cannot be submitted until Jan. 1
- Individual states may require supplemental forms for state financial aid.
- Notification: Financial Aid Award Letter mailed to students in late March-early April.
- Accept or reject need-based financial aid offers by May 1.

Apply for MERIT-based (academic) scholarships and grants.

ROTC (Military-based)
- Complete applications for Air Force (Dec 1), Army (Jan. 10), Navy (Jan. 20)
- Notification: During spring semester and on Financial Aid Award Letter mailed to students in late March - early April.

Campus-Based (Directly from colleges)
- Generally, no additional documents are required beyond the admission application. Some colleges require supplemental applications. Check with each college for specific requirements to apply for all academic scholarships.
- Recruitment scholarships are awarded by colleges in Dec.-Jan.
- Notification of all awards is given on Financial Aid Award Letter mailed to students in late March - early April.

National & Local (Winning criteria based on academic success and/or quality of community service.)
- Find these through high school announcements and by using Fastweb.com
- Complete applications, essays and other documents as required. May involve interviews with scholarship selection committees. (Oct-May)
- Notification: Generally during spring semester.