

SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

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SCHOLARSHIP/FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEWS

[10 Keys to College Funding &
Affordability](#)

[CFNC How to Find Scholarships
Webinar](#)

FINANCIAL AID and STUDENT LOANS RESOURCES

- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- [Ultimate FAFSA Resource Guide](#)
- [Financial Aid Calculator](#)
- [2022-2023 Federal Student Aid Handbook](#)
- [What is FAFSA and How Does it Work?](#)
- [Do I need to Fill out FAFSA even if I don't qualify for Financial Aid?](#)
- [Financial Aid for Students at Online Colleges](#)
- [Forgivable Education Loans for Service \(FELS\)](#) provides funding for NC students committed to working in NC in the areas with a critical need for more employees, including teaching, nursing, allied health, and medicine.



AN EASIER FAFSA

[GOING MERRY FAFSA](#)

CSS PROFILE

(only required by certain colleges)

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

[Everything You Need to Know about
the CSS Profile](#)

FINANCIAL AID TIPS

College is usually more affordable than many families think, thanks to financial aid!

Create your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID

- (username and password). You can do this by the end of your child's junior year. This is an easy step and one of the few that you can complete early in the financial aid application process. For the most up-to-date information, visit the federal student aid website at studentaid.ed.gov.
- **October 1:** The FAFSA opens for seniors applying for college



FINANCIAL AID TIPS

- **Ask financial aid questions when you visit a college campus.** Ask the school representative if it's possible to visit the institution's financial aid office (if necessary, call ahead to make an appointment).
- **Ask financial aid representatives about cost medians** instead of only looking at a college's published cost.
- **When in doubt, ask a financial aid professional.** Call a financial aid office of any college in your area when you have a question, even if your son or daughter does not plan to attend that institution. Financial aid officers can answer many general questions and are happy to help.
- Some institutions' financial aid and scholarship forms may have deadlines that are **PRIOR** to the college application form deadline.
- **Review forms and deadlines required by each college.** Creating a chart or spreadsheet can be very helpful for keeping track of the different requirements and dates.



FINANCIAL AID TIPS

- **Keep all tax records and documents up-to-date** and handy when speaking with a financial aid officer. If your financial situation changes (health issues, loss of job, etc.), alert your financial aid officer immediately.
- **The FAFSA® application includes a feature called the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)** that allows you to transfer your tax return information to the FAFSA. Information is available on the FAFSA and IRS websites.
- **Look out for the Student Aid Report (SAR)** that confirms you completed your FAFSA. It will provide your eligibility index for federal and state aid. If there are errors or incorrect information on the SAR, you can make corrections online.



FINANCIAL AID TIPS

- **Compare financial aid packages side by side.**
Using an award letter comparison tool will allow you to get a clearer picture of where your student's financial aid is coming from and will help you make a more informed decision. There is a "Compare Your Aid Awards" tool, along with other free tools, on the BigFuture™ website, bigfuture.collegeboard.org



SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SITES

- [StudentScholarships.org](https://www.student-scholarships.org)
- [Going Merry](https://www.goingmerry.com)
- [Scholarship Guidance.com](https://www.scholarshipguidance.com)
- [College Board's Big Future](https://collegeboard.org/bigfuture)
- [Fastweb](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [tuitionfundingsources.com](https://www.tuitionfundingsources.com)
- [Cappex](https://www.cappex.com)
- [The College Connector Scholarship](https://www.collegeconnector.org)

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- [8 Scholarships for Wake County \(NC\) Residents | SmartScholar](#)
- [8 Scholarships for Durham County \(NC\) Residents | SmartScholar](#)
- The [North Carolina Community Foundation](#) (NCCF) offers a rich and diverse array of scholarships to students living in each county in our state. The link is for Wake county residents. Includes need-based and merit-based awards. VARIOUS DEADLINES.

CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- [Cedarville University Legacy Scholarship](#)
- [Scholarships and Resources for Christian Students | EduMed.org](#)
- [Scholarships 360](#) Top Christian Scholarships
- [Online Christian College Scholarship Resource Program](#) – A Christian college education may be more affordable than you think. Click here for more information on scholarships and grants to Christian colleges and universities.
- [Christian Student Guide to Choosing a College & Scholarships](#) – For Christian students, there are many factors to consider when deciding between attending a secular or Christian school. Explore the different college options and the faith-based resources they offer, plus discover 15 scholarships available to Christian students.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH IN COMMON APP

- Common App has made it easy for applicants to access scholarship opportunities directly through the admissions application. They have partnered with College Board's Big Future Scholarship Search to give the option to connect the student's information with Scholarship Search — saving all that hard work to reuse on the next application!
- You can apply to multiple scholarships without having to re-enter your information each time. Instead, you can reuse your information from one application to another. Fill out one application and simply import it to a Scholarship Search profile to use again next time.
- Scholarship Search works with many scholarship providers, including Scholarship America, Dell Scholars and Phi Theta Kappa. Check out their website for the full list of providers at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>.

HOW TO USE COMMON APP'S SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

- Once you submit an application in Common App, you will be guided to connect your accounts so we can transfer your Common App application information to your new Scholarship Search profile.
- Connect to Scholarship Search in the Financial Aid Resources tab of your Common App.
- Log in to your Scholarship Search account or register for a new account.
- Give permission for Common App to access and transfer your data to Scholarship Search.
- That's it! You'll be notified when the transfer is complete and will be taken back to your Common App account. Learn more about connecting your Common App with Scholarship Search at appsupport.commonapp.org.