

Scholarships

A How to Guide

I need money for college. What do I do now?

First, it is important to know the different types of scholarships.

Types of Scholarships:

- Merit-based = based on GPA
- Need-based = based on financial need
- Student-specific = based on specific qualities or characteristics, ex. First generation college
- Career-specific = based on profession student is pursuing, ex. Nursing, Education
- Military-based = based on service for military enlistment and time served.

Second, know where to go to find scholarships.

1. Go to the **College website** of your choice. Look in the sections for financial aid, admissions, and/or scholarships. Be mindful that many honors/merit based scholarships have early deadlines. You must apply to the college before applying for the scholarship.
2. **GA Futures Website:** <http://www.gafutures.org>
 - a. Go to the Financial Aid & Scholarships tab and you will find a Scholarship Search engine.
 - b. **HOPE** Scholarship and **Zell Miller** Scholarship information can be found in the Financial Aid section, as well.
3. **FAFSA-FREE** Application for Federal Student Aid. FAFSA is a government based program and the application is available online on October 1st. The application requires parent tax information from the previous tax season. FAFSA Aid can be in the form of grants, student loans, and/or work study. Go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information.
4. A **Scholarship bucket** is located on the front counter of the Counseling Office and available for any senior to look through during office hours. Scholarships are added throughout the year but it really fills up in the Spring. Serious scholarship hunters will look through the bucket on a regular basis.
5. **Big Future by College Board:** <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> Look in the section “Paying for College” for Financial Aid 101 and the scholarship search engine.
6. **Online scholarship searches.** Below is a list of great websites that offer free online college search engines.
 - <https://www.brokescholar.com/>
 - <https://www.cappex.com/>
 - <https://www.fastweb.com/>
 - <https://www.gafutures.org/>
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
 - <http://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid/>
 - <https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>

Last, follow directions carefully when filling out scholarships. Make sure you have submitted all required documents, corrected grammatical and spelling errors, and submitted correct GPA information. Have a parent, teacher, or counselor proofread your application before submitting. Even the slightest error can hurt your chances.

If a scholarship requires a recommendation you can select a current or past teacher, coach, or school counselor. It is polite to ask for the recommendation at least one week prior to the due date, if not earlier.

Any additional questions can be directed to the Senior Counselor, Mrs. Heather Osborn.