

Strategies for making the most of scholarship applications

January 2024



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Housekeeping

Technical issues

Contact us at webinars@mappingyourfuture.org if you experience technical issues.

Questions

Submit your questions using the Q&A

Handouts

Available in the Chat

Audio

Attendee lines are muted

Call in using a telephone number listed in the meeting invitation if you experience sound quality issues

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Scholarship strategies

Four steps for successful scholarship strategies

PLAN

- Know the cost of college
- Develop a goal based on cost
- Consider your talents/traits
- Create an email address for scholarship search/applications

RESEARCH

- Look for local, college, state, and employer scholarships
- Check with professional associations
- Use Internet search engines

APPLY

- Write the essay, consider the topic, and take time to edit
- Revise, review, and proof
- Keep copies of applications

TRACK

- Use the Mapping Your Future scholarship tracking sheet*
- Know the deadlines
- Understand requirements

*The scholarship tracking sheet is online at <https://bit.ly/TrackScholarships> or use the QR code above.

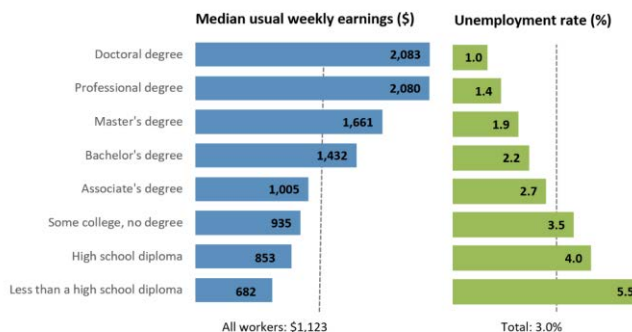
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Earnings and unemployment rates

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics September 2022 data, jobs requiring more education for entry are expected to increase faster than average in the United States over the next decade.

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2022

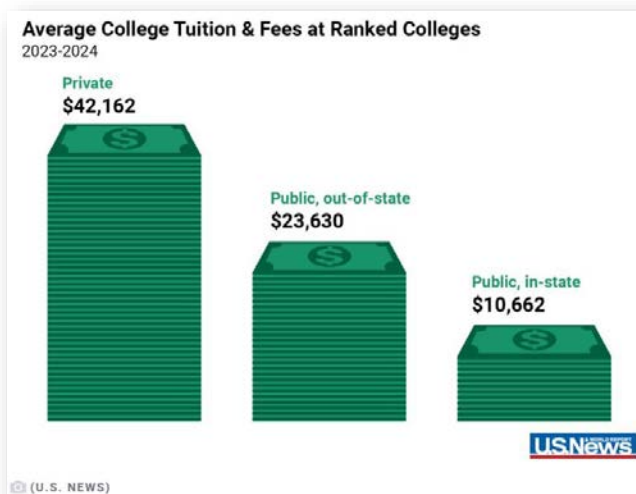


Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

https://bls.gov/emp/images/ep_chart_001.png

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Average tuition and fees



<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/paying-for-college-infographic>

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Successful scholarship strategies

- Make it meaningful by knowing where to look and how to look for scholarships
- Align the search to your characteristics and to your college and career goals
- Be strategic with your plans, research, organization, applications, and awards



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Scholarship tracking sheet

MAPPING YOUR FUTURE Scholarship Application Tracking						
Scholarship Name	Application due date	Amount	Renewable? (yes or no)	Action needed	Contact/contact information	Date submitted

MAPPING YOUR FUTURE Scholarships Received Tracking Sheet						
Scholarship Name	Amount	Fall Semester Amount	Spring Semester Amount	Action needed	Contact/contact information	Thank you sent

MAPPING YOUR FUTURE Comparing College Costs and Award Letters				
	College A	College B	College C	College D
Tuition and fees				
Books and supplies				
Room and board				
Transportation				
Other				
Total costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Federal grants				
State grants & scholarships				
Institutional aid (including grants, scholarships, loans)				
Outside scholarships				
Other financial aid				
Federal loans				
State loans				
Other loans (including private or alternative loans)				
Total financial aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	0

<https://bit.ly/TrackScholarships>

Types of scholarships

Academic merit	Athletic ability	Field of study
Ethnic background	Religious affiliation	Special interests

Institutional scholarships

- Likely have different scholarships for entering, returning, transfer students
- Research deadlines
- Understand the steps involved
- Plan for the future



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Why students don't complete applications

Time constraints

Don't perceive the benefit

Doubt ability to receive

Too much work

Perception that won't qualify

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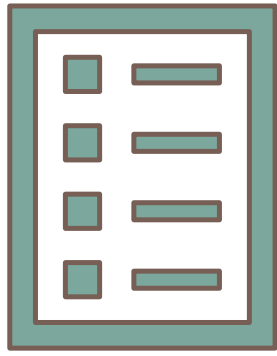
Scholarship myths

- Unclaimed money
- Free ride
- Only high school seniors should apply
- Small scholarships aren't worth pursuing

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PLAN



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Plan

- Know the cost of college
- Develop a goal based on cost
- Consider your talents/traits
- Create an email address for scholarship search/applications



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Understand college costs and financing

Determine cost of attendance

Financial resources

- 529 plans/prepaid tuition
- Savings
- Current earnings

Financial aid

- Scholarships
- Grants
- Loans

Set a goal to cover unmet need with scholarships

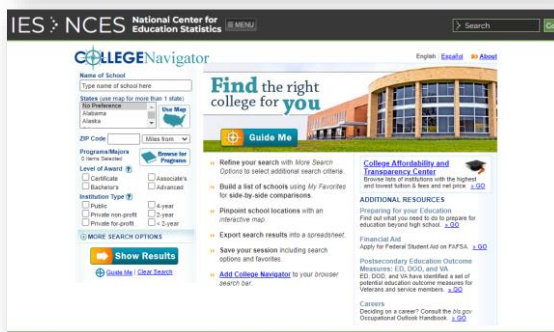
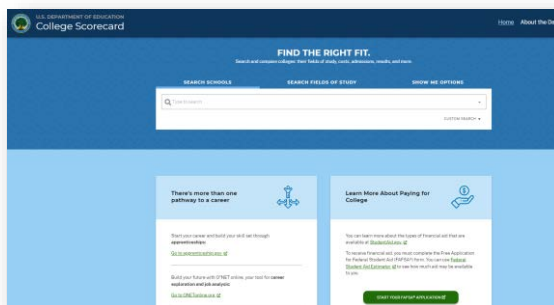


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Cost of college

- Cost of attendance includes:
 - Tuition and fees
 - Books, supplies, and equipment
 - Living expenses (housing and food)
 - Transportation
 - Personal
 - Miscellaneous
- Research
 - CollegeScorecard.ed.gov
 - College Navigator
 - College's website



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Comparing cost of attendance

MAPPING YOUR FUTURE Comparing College Costs and Award Letters
 • Mapping Your Future

	College A Two-Year Technical	College B Four-Year Public	College C Four-Year Private	College D Local Community
Tuition and fees	\$7,000	\$13,000	\$34,000	\$6,700
Books and supplies	\$1,416	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$1,000
Living expenses (housing and food)	\$5,300	\$8,537	\$16,606	\$1,000
Transportation	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Other	\$1,500	\$1,750	\$2,500	\$1,500
Total costs	\$15,716	\$24,887	\$54,606	\$10,700
Federal grants	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$774
State grants & scholarships	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Institutional aid (including grants, scholarships, loans)	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$25,000	\$2,000
Outside scholarships	\$500	\$1,000	\$3,500	\$3,500
Other financial aid	\$0	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$0
Federal loans	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
State loans	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other loans (including private or alternative loans)	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Total financial aid	\$11,500	\$16,000	\$33,500	\$7,774
Total out-of-pocket	\$4,216	\$8,887	\$21,106	\$2,926

http://mappingyourfuture.org/downloads/MappingYourFuture_Scholarship_Tracking.xlsx

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Student Aid Estimator

Good news! The student may be eligible for federal student aid.

Estimates
These results are based on a new method—the Student Aid Index (SAI)—a number used by a college's financial aid office to determine federal student aid eligibility.

Estimated Federal Student Aid
\$14,876

Federal student aid from the U.S. Department of Education helps cover expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, food, housing, and travel—but it is not the only source of funding for the students' college costs. Scroll down to the "Other Factors To Consider" section to see some additional options that may help students lower their college costs.

Estimated Federal Pell Grant	Maximum Available Direct Loans	Average Work-Study Funds
\$7,395	\$5,500	\$1,981

Federal Student Aid

FAFSA® Form | Loans and Grants | Loan Repayment | Loan Forgiveness | Log In | Create Account

Federal Student Aid Estimator

Our Federal Student Aid Estimator provides an estimate of how much federal student aid the student may be eligible to receive. These estimates are based on the Student Aid Index (SAI), an index to determine federal student aid eligibility.

This Is Not the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Form

Use this tool to see how much federal student aid you may be eligible for in the 2024-25 award year. Note: This tool estimates the Student Aid Index (SAI) for the 2024-25 award year, not the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for the 2023-24 award year.

To apply for financial aid, complete the FAFSA® form.

Begin Estimate of Federal Student Aid

The student may want to use the Federal Student Aid Estimator before filling out the FAFSA® form to help them understand their options for paying for college or career school by providing them an early estimate of how much federal student aid they may be eligible for.

[Start Estimate](#)

<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

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Develop a scholarship application plan

Components

- Self profile
- Accomplishments
- Draft essay
- Scholarship Tracking Sheet

Next steps

- Research possible scholarships
- Brainstorm essay topics
- Complete the FAFSA/CSS Profile



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Get organized

- Transcripts
- Standardized test scores
- Tax returns and financial information
- FAFSA Submission Summary
- Financial aid forms and applications
- Résumé
- Essays
- Letters of recommendation
- Any other proof of eligibility
- Accomplishments portfolio



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Consider talents and traits

- Accomplishments portfolio
 - Résumé
 - High school transcript
 - ACT/SAT score
 - Awards
 - Writing samples
 - Articles from local paper
- Interests
 - Sports
 - Arts



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Résumé

Address, contact information

Education

Employment

Community service

Extracurricular activities

Awards/honors



RESEARCH



Research

Begin your search early

Look for scholarships

High school counselor

Library

Local community foundations

College or university

State

Employer scholarships

Professional or trade associations

Use Internet search tools



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Scholarship search

The screenshot shows the CareerOneStop Scholarship Finder page. At the top, it says "careeronestop your source for career exploration, training & jobs" and "Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor. A proud partner of the [American Job Center](#) network." There are links for "Login" and "Español". A search bar contains "Search CareerOneStop". Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for "Explore Careers", "Find Training", "Job Search", "Find Local Help", "Toolkit", and "Resources For". The main heading is "Scholarship Finder".

Your Search
 Search by keyword
 Keyword:
 Search

Filter By

Level of Study

- [Bachelor's Degree \(5524\)](#)
- [Graduate Degree \(3399\)](#)
- [Professional Development \(1397\)](#)
- [Vocational \(525\)](#)
- [Associate Degree \(408\)](#)
- [High School \(251\)](#)

Award Type

- [Scholarship \(6547\)](#)
- [Fellowship \(1132\)](#)
- [Grant \(708\)](#)
- [Prize \(466\)](#)
- [Public Grant \(151\)](#)
- [Loan \(29\)](#)

Search more than 8,000 scholarships, fellowships, grants, and other financial aid award opportunities. You can:

- Look through the whole list of scholarships below, arranged in order of closest deadline
- Narrow your list with "Search by keyword." Enter a keyword about the type of award you're looking for
- Use the filters to see only awards for certain award types, locations, level of study, and more

We found **8,739** awards.

Award Name	Level of Study	Award Type	Award Amount	Deadline
A Creative Life 1 Minute Scholarship Organization: LRV Purposes: This scholarship is for all students and graduates who want to get the most out of life. Designing a fulfilling and balanced life is easier said than done. It takes a tremendous amount of creativity and courage to find a path that genuinely works for you. This scholarship exists to support people from all walks of life on their journey of living life to the fullest. Learn how to apply at: https://cavinrosser.com/scholarships/creative/	Associate Degree	Grant Prize Scholarship	\$1,000	December
A Dating Seidt 3 Sentence Scholarship	Associate	Scholarship	\$1,000	December

<https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-scholarships.aspx>

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Internet scholarship searches

[Big Future](#)

[FastWeb](#)

[Unigo](#)

[apply](#)

[Scholarships.com](#)

[Niche.com](#)


[Dollars for Scholars](#)

Mapping Your Future offers this list of websites as a resource and a convenience to you. Mapping Your Future does not endorse these sites and is not responsible for the privacy practices or the content of these sites.

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Scholarship application tracking

 Scholarship Application Tracking <small>©Mapping Your Future</small>						
Scholarship Name	Application due date	Amount	Renewable? (yes or no)	Action needed	Contact/contact information	Date submitted
University Leaders at College B	12/15/2022	\$2,500	Yes	Interviews granted by 2/15/2023	Financial aid office	12/1/2022
Local Electric Cooperative	1/31/2023	\$1,000	No	None	Joe Smith joe@localelectriccoop.com	1/15/2023
Kiwanis	1/15/2023	\$500	No	Application started, need to finish		
Chamber of Commerce	3/31/2023	\$750	No	Complete application		
Local business foundation	4/1/2023	\$500	No	Complete application		
High School Alumni Foundation	4/15/2023	\$250	No	Complete application		

http://mappingyourfuture.org/downloads/MappingYourFuture_Scholarship_Tracking.xlsx

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Avoid scholarship scams

- Read the fine print
- Understand the terms and conditions
- Beware of “guarantees”
- Protect personal information
- Never pay to submit a scholarship application
- Learn more at the scholarship scams website:
Federal Trade Commission – <http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams>



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APPLY



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Apply

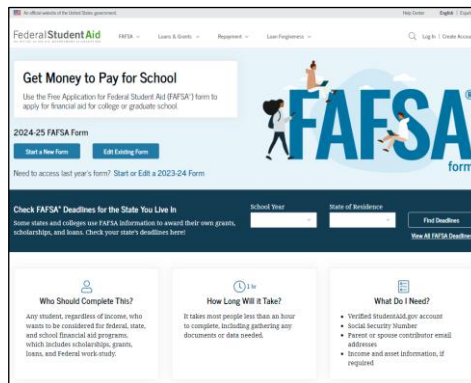
- Review applications and instructions carefully
- Make note of deadlines
- Write the essay
- Keep copies of applications



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FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Base application for various forms of financial aid (need based and non-need based)
 - › Federal
 - › State
 - › Institutional
 - › Private
- Available December 31, 2023 for 2024-25 academic year (will be October 1 again in the future)
- Students, watch your e-mail for FAFSA Submission Summary availability, which will have your Student Aid Index (SAI)
- [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)



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CSS Profile

Schools can choose to use in addition to the FAFSA

Use SAT log in

Submit information for last two tax years

Fee to send to a school, but fee waivers are available

Use the Dashboard to check status of application, messages from schools

Student will list all parents, step-parents

- School can request information from non-custodial parent, waiver available
- Independent, graduate, professional students may still be required to submit parental information

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



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Prepare the applications

- Follow directions
- List all activities and honors
- Neatness and grammar count
- Make a copy
- Meet deadlines
- Choose references that know you well
- Proof your application and essay



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References

1

Select those who can provide specific examples of your character and participation in activities

2

Give the reference:

- Some suggestions of things to talk about
- The deadline to complete
- A copy of your resume

3

Send a nice follow-up reminder(s) to make sure the letter is completed/sent

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Write the essay

Prepare to answer questions on a variety of topics

- Academic plans
- Current events and social issues
- Personal history
- Achievements
- Future plans

Make a strong impression, use a personal example

Showcase the positive

Make sure to revise the essay to match the essay requirements

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Essay tips

- Read the directions carefully
- Brainstorm
- Make an outline
- Brainstorm some more
- Write a rough draft
- Write a better draft
- Don't be afraid to start over
- Ask for help
- Use spell check and proofread carefully
- Save your essay
- Don't be too generic
- Target your essay
- Give examples
- Watch vocabulary

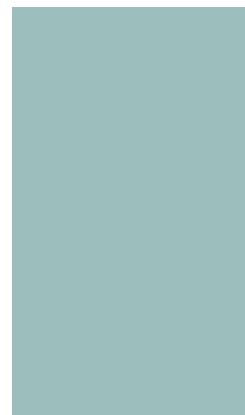
<https://mappingyourfuture.org/collegeprep/essay.cfm>

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Interview/presentation


- Bring accomplishments portfolio
- Dress professionally
- Practice
 - Prepare to answer questions in different ways, while staying true to yourself
 - Show the broadness of your thoughts, while staying on track
 - If interview will be online, practice and adjust lighting, items in background
- Know the audience
 - Choose appropriate topics
 - Be knowledgeable about the organization



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TRACK

An icon of a blue clipboard with a white sheet of paper. The paper has a checklist with four items. The first two items are marked with blue checkmarks, and the last two are marked with blue 'X's. To the right of the checklist are four horizontal blue lines representing text.

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Track

- Understand all terms and conditions
- Accept the award
- Follow the requirements of the scholarship program
- Understand how scholarship may impact other aid
- Some scholarships will go directly to the student, others to the school
- Send thank you notes

A close-up photograph of a person's hands. The right hand is holding a blue pen and writing on a white notepad. The left hand is holding the notepad steady. The person is wearing a grey sweater. The background is blurred.

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Scholarships received tracking sheet

Scholarship Name	Amount	Fall Semester Amount	Spring Semester Amount	Action needed	Contact/contact information	Thank you sent
University Leaders for College B	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,250	Maintain 3.0 GPA		<input type="checkbox"/>
Electric Cooperative	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	Submit fall grades and spring schedule late December	Joe Smith joe@electriccop.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kiwanis	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	None		<input type="checkbox"/>
Chamber of Commerce	\$1,200	\$600	\$600	Submit fall grades and spring schedule late December	Sue Jones sue@chamber.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local foundation	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	None		<input type="checkbox"/>
Total	\$6,700	\$4,350	\$2,350			

http://mappingyourfuture.org/downloads/MappingYourFuture_Scholarship_Tracking.xlsx

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Financial aid offers

- Also known as award letters
- Student information
- Cost of attendance information
- Aid known by the Financial Aid Office
 - Scholarships
 - State aid
 - Federal aid
- Accept or reject aid and return/submit
- May complete electronically

Category	On Campus Residence	Off Campus Residence
Total Cost of Attendance 2024-2025		
Tuition and Fees	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX
Housing and Food	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX
Books and Supplies	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX
Transportation	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX
Other Education Costs	\$X,XXXX	\$X,XXXX
Estimated Cost of Attendance	\$X,XXXX / yr	\$X,XXXX / yr

Category	Amount
Student Aid Index	X,XXXX / yr
Scholarship and Grant Options	
Scholarships	
Merit-Based Scholarships	\$X,XXXX
Scholarships From Your School	\$X,XXXX
Scholarships From Your State	\$X,XXXX
Other Scholarships	\$X,XXXX
Employer Paid Tuition Benefits	\$X,XXXX
Total Scholarships	\$X,XXXX / yr
Grants	
Need-Based Grant Aid	\$X,XXXX
Federal Pell Grants	\$X,XXXX
Institutional Grants	\$X,XXXX
State Grants	\$X,XXXX
Other Forms of Grant Aid	\$X,XXXX
Total Grants	\$X,XXXX / yr
VA Education Benefits	\$X,XXXX / yr
College Costs You Will Be Required to Pay	
Net Price to You	\$X,XXXX / yr
Loan and Work Options to Pay the Net Price to You	
Loan Options*	
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan (x.xx% interest rate) (x.xx% origination fee)	\$X,XXXX / yr
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (x.xx% interest rate) (x.xx% origination fee)	\$X,XXXX / yr
Total Loan Options	\$X,XXXX / yr
Work Options	
Work-Study	\$X,XXXX / yr
Hours Per Week (estimated)	XX / wk
Off-Campus Job	\$X,XXXX / yr
Total Work	\$X,XXXX / yr

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Resources and other information

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Tax implications

Scholarships are considered:

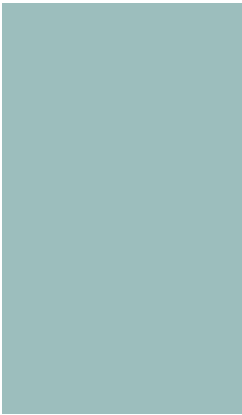
- Tax-free: If used for tuition and fees
- Taxable: If used for living expenses (housing and food), travel, and optional equipment

Institutions issue the 1098-T Tuition Statement that lists payments and scholarships received

Topic Number 421: Scholarships, Fellowship Grants, and Other Grants
<https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc421>

Mapping Your Future provides this information as a service to you.

Every tax situation is different and the regulations are complex. If you are uncertain about your rights and responsibilities, contact a qualified tax advisor or visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website.



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Additional insight for current college students



Apply for:

Scholarships in field of study
Departmental scholarships
Institutional scholarships



Watch deadlines



Complete the FAFSA



Comply with renewal criteria for existing scholarships

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Resources

Federal Student Aid:

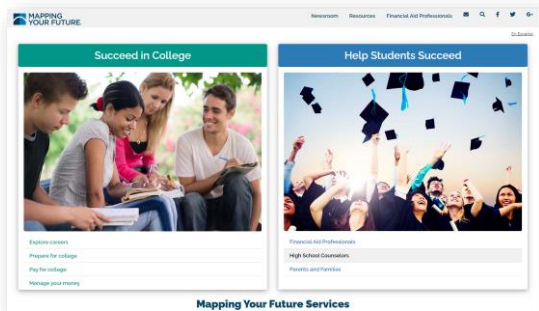
- [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- [StudentAid.gov/aid-estimator](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator)

[College Navigator](https://collegenavigator.org)

[CollegeScorecard.ed.gov](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov)

[MappingYourFuture.org](https://mappingyourfuture.org)

- mappingyourfuture.org/Downloads/Mapping-Your-Future-Scholarship-Plan-Flyer.pdf
- mappingyourfuture.org/Downloads/StrategiesForMakingTheMostOfScholarshipApplications2024.pdf
- mappingyourfuture.org/Downloads/2024-25FAFSATips.pdf
- mappingyourfuture.org/Downloads/MappingYourFuture_Scholarship_Tracking.xlsx
- mappingyourfuture.org/services/webinararchive.cfm
- [Guide to Life after High School](#)
- [Early Awareness E-News signup](#)



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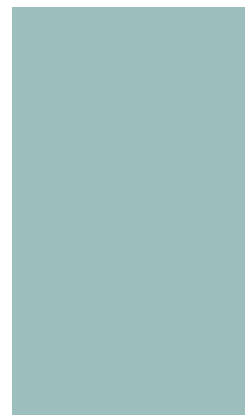
Manage money

Use available dollars as efficiently as possible

- Stretch funds to future terms

Manage your money page: mappingyourfuture.org/money/

- Start budgeting mappingyourfuture.org/money/budget.cfm
- Calculators
 - Budget
 - Savings
 - Student loan repayment
- [12-step guide to financial success](#)



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Customer service



1-800-374-4072
(8-5 Central time)



feedback@mappingyourfuture.org



Contact Us links on
MappingYourFuture.org

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Questions

Enter your question in the Q&A on the Zoom toolbar

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Contact us at:
(800) 374-4072

feedback@mappingyourfuture.org
MappingYourFuture.org

Thank you for participating in today's webinar!

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