

Paying For College

High school sophomores and their parents should begin looking for financial aid to help pay for college. In the 1999/2000 school year, families received \$68.4 billion in aid. Most of this money was in federal loans and grants. Scholarships can also help pay tuition bills.



1. Start looking for financial aid at least two years before applying to college.

- The high school guidance office, library and internet can help.
 - Counselors know what colleges want: class rank, helpful volunteer service, and other assets.
- ### 2. Learn about different college scholarships.
- Academic scholarships are given to teens with high grades.
 - Some colleges award scholarships or grants for special talents, music, art, singing, science, math or sports.

- Colleges often give money to students who excel overall.
 - Funds are given to special education or disabled students.
 - Military programs (like the Army) give money for college.
 - Business, union, civic and church groups award money.
 - Money Central/Fast Web College Scholarship search (on the Internet) has information on more than 4000 scholarships.
- ### 3. Use more than one type of financial aid. Ask about:
- Loans
 - Federal loans – FAFSA
 - Grants
 - Work/study programs
 - Working part-time outside the college campus.

College-bound students can find aid if parents are willing to look hard for answers. Also, students must study hard, save money, and build a good resume. Colleges like students with outside interests.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.

1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. , 7 days a week.