



Acronyms to Know

1. APR Annual Percentage Rate
2. COA Cost of Attendance
3. CSS College Scholarship Service
4. FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid
5. FSA Federal Student Aid
6. FSEOG Fed. Supp. Educational Opportunity Grant
7. PLUS Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students
8. PSLF Public Service Loan Forgiveness
9. SAI Student Aid Index (Replaces EFC)
10. SAP Satisfactory Academic Progress

Vocabulary

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Accreditation | 12. Loan |
| 2. Associate's Degree | 13. Loan Servicer |
| 3. Award Letter | 14. Merit-based Aid |
| 4. Bachelor's Degree | 15. Need-based Aid |
| 5. Certificate Program | 16. Pell Grant |
| 6. Default | 17. Promissory Note |
| 7. Deferment | 18. Scholarship |
| 8. Delinquent | 19. Scholarship Scam |
| 9. Financial Aid Package | 20. Subsidized Loan |
| 10. Forbearance | 21. Unsubsidized Loan |
| 11. Grant | 22. Work-study |

Post-Secondary Notes

Different Types of Schools

2-year colleges; 4-year colleges/universities; vocational schools; trade schools; careers schools; online programs

Factors to Consider When Comparing Schools

Is it accredited? cost (COA); net price (after including financial aid); admission requirements; tuition refund policy (if you change your mind); return-of-aid policy; enrollment contract; majors offered; public/private or for-profit?

Accredited vs. Non-accredited Schools

Non-accredited schools cannot offer federal financial aid; credits might not be accepted by accredited schools

Information You Need to Fill-out Your FAFSA

Parents' federal income tax return; your federal income tax return; info on bank account balances and investments held by both you and your parents; your Social Security number; parents' Social Security numbers; your driver's license number; list of schools you want to receive your info

FAFSA Changes in 2024

Replacement of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI) and the incorporation of additional questions to better assess financial need

Grants

Grants, including Pell Grants, and university-specific grants, provide students with financial aid that does not need to be repaid. Unlike scholarships, grants typically do not require a separate application process and are often awarded based on financial need or academic merit.

Types of Scholarships

Merit-based- academic achievement; special talent/interest
Financial Need- Parent income + your income shows need
Affiliation- your background, group you belong to, or interests

Info to Gather for Scholarship Applications

Transcripts; letters of recommendation; academic info; personal info; personal statement/essay; school & community activities/volunteer work; employment; awards & honors

Signs of a Scholarship Scam

They want you to pay for a "service"; they guarantee you a scholarship; claim they are from the government; they tell you "millions of scholarship dollars go unclaimed" or, you can receive a "full ride"

Types of Student Loans

- Fed. Direct Subsidized Loan (\$3,500 limit for freshmen)
- Fed. Direct Unsubsidized Loan (school determines max \$)
- Direct PLUS Loan (for parents)
- Private Loans (most require a co-signer and good credit)

Consequences of Student Loan Debt

Debt affects: ability to buy a home; saving for retirement or long-term goals; daily standard of living; discretionary income

Other Options

- Work study- work part-time, typically on campus, to earn money to help pay educational expenses
- Community college- cost-effective path to complete lower division or foundational coursework before transferring
- Trade school/Certificate program- offer specialized training in high-demand fields, to enter the workforce quickly

Post-Secondary Facts

- 1-in-8 Americans has student loan debt
- Colleges expect about 50-percent of a student's income and 20-25 percent of assets to be spent on college
- Over a lifetime, a person who graduates from career school, a 2-year or 4-year college may earn more than \$1.2 million more than a high school graduate.
- Filling out the FAFSA as soon as it becomes available might put you near the front of the line for financial aid