

Getting Money for College

Financial Aid Department



Facts Sheet

1. “Backyard” Sources for Scholarships

- *Local library.* Ask for a list of local civic organizations and community organizations (like American Legion, Red Cross, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H clubs, Kiwanis International, Optimist Club, Rotary Club, YMCA, etc.).
- *Chambers of Commerce.*
- *Student Clubs and Organizations.* Bands, academic clubs, athletic and service organizations, newspaper. Also, check your local newspapers to see who won last year’s scholarships and who awarded the scholarships.
- *Parent’s Employer.*
- *Student’s Employer.* Places like McDonald’s, Chick-fil-A, Taco Bell, and Walmart all offer scholarships to their employees.
- *Local Government.* Call the offices of your state representatives and city council members to see if they have any available scholarships.
- *Military.* Each branch of the military has an association. They offer scholarships to family members of those who have served our country.

2. Beyond Your “Backyard”

- *Internet*
 - www.supercollege.com
 - www.freschinfo.com
 - www.brokescholar.com
 - www.review.com
- *Professional Associations.* Every profession has an association. Go to your public library and search through the Encyclopedia of Associations. Most college libraries have his book, if your local library does not.
- *Florida College Website.* Under **Admissions**, select **Financial Aid**, and then **Scholarship Search Engines**
www.floridacollege.edu/admissions/financial-aid

3. Why Some Students Don’t Get Money

Barriers:

- *Students don’t want to write essays.* You should make this a hobby, not a hassle—once you get a feel for it, it’s not difficult. If you spend the necessary time writing just two essays, you’ve done the work for ten of them. It will get easier each time.
- *Students want parents to pay for their college.* Sometimes this isn’t a reality, especially after the first two years of college.
- *Students only want the “big” money.* Usually, larger scholarships only require an application, not an essay. Therefore, unfortunately, the pool of candidates for large scholarships is often so large, it’s like playing the lottery. Students should not devalue the smaller scholarships. If you can obtain six \$500 scholarships, that’s \$3,000. Tests show that the chances of getting money through smaller scholarships are much greater.
- *Students may develop a low expectation of winning a scholarship.* If students only pursue “big money” scholarships, it’s likely they won’t receive anything. Because of this, they may grow discouraged, especially when friends are trying the same thing with the same result. Keep searching, and branch out into different areas.

- *Time and effort required.* You've got to be diligent. It is challenging, but the rewards are much more than just financial. Get motivated to learn and grow through this process, and you'll increase—not only your money for college—but your portfolio, your skills, and your character.

4. Helpful Books (should all be available on Amazon.com)

- *Get Free Cash for College*, Gen. and Kelly Tanabe
- *Write it Right*, Cynthia and Phillip McKee, Jr
- *How to Go to College Almost for Free*, Ben Kaplan

5. How to Get Florida College Academic Scholarship

- Keep grades up in high school
- Meet academic requirements
- Get accepted to FC
- Submit ACT and/or SAT scores

6. How Do I Apply for the FAFSA?

A. Get electronic signature (“pin number”)

- Login to www.pin.ed.gov
- Keep pin number for educational career
- One for parents/one for student

B. Get organized. Needed for parent and student:

- Social security number
- Driver’s license
- Most recent federal income tax return
- Alien registration/permanent residence card (if not a US citizen)
- Most recent W-2 forms
- Bank statements
- Investment records

C. Complete the FAFSA online

- Online: www.fafsa.gov
- Send results to FC (School Code 001482)

7. Sources of Government Aid

A. Federal Grants

- Pell Grant
- Federal Supp. Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

B. State Grants

- Florida Residence Access Grant (FRAG)
- Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)

C. State Scholarships

- Robert C. “Byrd” Scholarship
- Bright Futures

8. Institutional Aid: Florida College

- Adopt
- Endowed
- Departmental Scholarships
- Athletic Scholarships

9. Loans

A. Stafford (for student)

- Subsidized, 4.5% interest rate
- Unsubsidized, 6.8% interest rate

B. PLUS (for parent)

- 8.5% interest rate

C. Alternative

- Variable interest rate
- Co-signer advised/needed

