

# SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Every person should have a chance to go to college. A scholarship or financial aid can help make that dream come true. Everyone has a special quality that makes him or her an attractive candidate for a number of scholarships.

## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

### FAFSA

The applicant's first step is filling out a **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. This form is **REQUIRED** in order to be considered for a scholarship or financial aid from any college, university or government agency. This form **MUST** be completed. The **FAFSA** form can be obtained online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Follow the directions on the site and put yourself in the running for financial aid and scholarships! Schools offer various scholarships or grants based on a multitude of factors.

### Federal Pell Grant

The federal and state governments offer scholarships that are universally accepted at all colleges & universities. Completing the **FAFSA** form is considered an automatic application for benefits of the **Federal Pell Grant**. All college applicants are eligible for this grant. The Pell Grant is based on financial need and can provide the student with up to \$4,050 a year.

### Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

Another federal grant is the **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)**. This grant **MUST** be applied for in the financial aid office of a college or university. It is also based on financial need and can provide the student with up to \$4,000 a year.

### CT Aid for Public College Students

The **CT Aid for Public College Students** is a State of Connecticut grant. Requirements include Connecticut residency and attendance in a State of Connecticut **public** college or university. Applications must be made at the financial aid office of the college or university. This financial need-based grant can provide the student with the amount of unmet fees.

### Connecticut Independent College Student Grant Program

This grant provides funds by the State of Connecticut for Connecticut students who attend an independent university in Connecticut. The **Connecticut Independent College Student Grant Program** requires Connecticut residency and provides up to \$8,050 a year. Applications must be made at the financial aid office of the college or university. This grant is also based on the

financial need of the student.

### **Tuition Set Aside Aid**

The State of Connecticut offers a grant called **Tuition Set Aside Aid**. Students attending a public or independent university or college in Connecticut are eligible. Applications must be made at the financial aid office of the college or university. This grant pays the amount of unmet financial need.

See complete list of government scholarships and grants available to Connecticut residents:

<http://www.ctdhe.org/SFA/sfa.htm>.

Though the Federal and State governments offer these grants, many schools also offer their own scholarships.

**Briarwood College** offers scholarships through an essay competition. The essay should be 500 words or less focused on your career and education goals at Briarwood, scholarship sizes vary. See more information on Briarwood Colleges financial aid programs:

[www.briarwood.edu/education/scholarship.asp](http://www.briarwood.edu/education/scholarship.asp).

**Capital Community College** offers many different scholarships based on particular criteria. The criteria ranges from intended major to high school attended.

See complete list of Capital Community Colleges scholarships:

<http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/stuserve/finaid.htm>.

**Tunxis Community College** also has scholarships available to incoming students.

See Tunxis Community College scholarships:

<http://tunxis.commnet.edu/finaid/scholarships.html>.

**Central Connecticut State University** also has many scholarships available.

**The Anna Bubser-Judd Trust Scholarship** is given preferably to an African-American or Latino student from Hartford or West Hartford who will enroll as a full-time student.

See more information on CCSU's available scholarships:

[www.ccsu.edu/instiadv/scholarships](http://www.ccsu.edu/instiadv/scholarships).

### **Scholarships Based on Ethnicity:**

Another source of scholarships may depend on the applicant's ethnic background. Many groups are looking to help minority students get into college.

**The Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute** offers scholarships to Latino students seeking a college education. The principal vehicle is the **Environmental Management Scholarship** which provides \$2,000 to community college students and \$3,000 to students in a four-year program.

See more information and limitations on this and other scholarships by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute at <http://www.hsfi.org/scholarships/default.asp>.

The **NAACP Willems Scholarships** are available to African American Students seeking an

undergraduate or graduate degree. The scholarship provides \$2,000 for undergraduates and \$3,000 for graduate students.

For more information visit:

[http://www.free-4u.com/naacp\\_national\\_office\\_\(naacp\\_willems\\_scholarship\).htm](http://www.free-4u.com/naacp_national_office_(naacp_willems_scholarship).htm).

For more information on scholarships for different ethnic backgrounds visit:

<http://www.free-4u.com/minority.htm>.

**Charitable organizations** are excellent sources for scholarships.

Examples:

**The Sallie Mae Fund** offers scholarships to a diverse range of people.

**The Sallie Mae First in My Family Scholarship** provides up to \$5,000 a year to a student of Hispanic decent who is planning to attend a college or university.

**The Sallie Mae American Dream Scholarship** provides an African-American student with up to \$5,000 for an accredited post secondary institution.

For more information on **The Sallie Mae Fund Scholarships** visit:

[www.thesalliemaefund.org/projectaccess/need.html](http://www.thesalliemaefund.org/projectaccess/need.html).

**Search Engines** should be used to find other scholarships.

Individual qualifications, ethnicity and other factors could qualify the applicant for scholarship money from unexpected sources.

Examples:

Visit: [www.Fastweb.com](http://www.Fastweb.com). recommended by many universities and colleges for scholarships that fit the individual personally.

Also see: [http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\\_ss/welcome.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp) .

This search engine allows the applicant to input details to tailor the scholarship search to the individual. Some scholarship searches require registration while others, such as CollegeBoard, do not. Any registration time expended is well worth the opportunities that can be found on these scholarship search sites.

**Follow Application Guidelines .**

### **Honesty**

When applying for scholarships, be honest about your grades, qualifications, experiences and family finances. Any detail that is untrue can render you ineligible for the scholarship.

### **Essays**

If a scholarship requires an essay, follow the guidelines presented to you. If the essay wants you to have a certain number of words or less, never exceed the set amount of words. Carefully follow instructions! If a scholarship has a certain deadline, it is always better to apply as early as

possible, scholarships tend to favor applicants who pay attention to the deadline and have timely applied. Finally, it is essential to proofread your applications and essays. On such an important aspect of the scholarship process, carelessness could give the governing board a bad first impression of the applicant's skills .

Everyone deserves a chance to get a college education. Take the initiative and look for scholarships and financial aid because there are funds available. You just have to find it!

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