

Financial Aid 101



What Is Financial Aid?

Financial aid consists of funds provided to students and families to help pay for postsecondary educational expenses



What is Cost of Attendance (COA)?

Estimation of expected costs

Direct Costs

Indirect Costs



Tuition and fees



Transportation



Room and board



Miscellaneous
personal expenses



Books and supplies

What Is Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

Measurement of student's and family's ability to pay postsecondary educational expenses

Student contribution

Parent contribution
(for dependent students)

What Is Financial Need?

Cost of attendance (COA)

– **Expected family contribution (EFC)**

= Financial need

Categories of Financial Aid

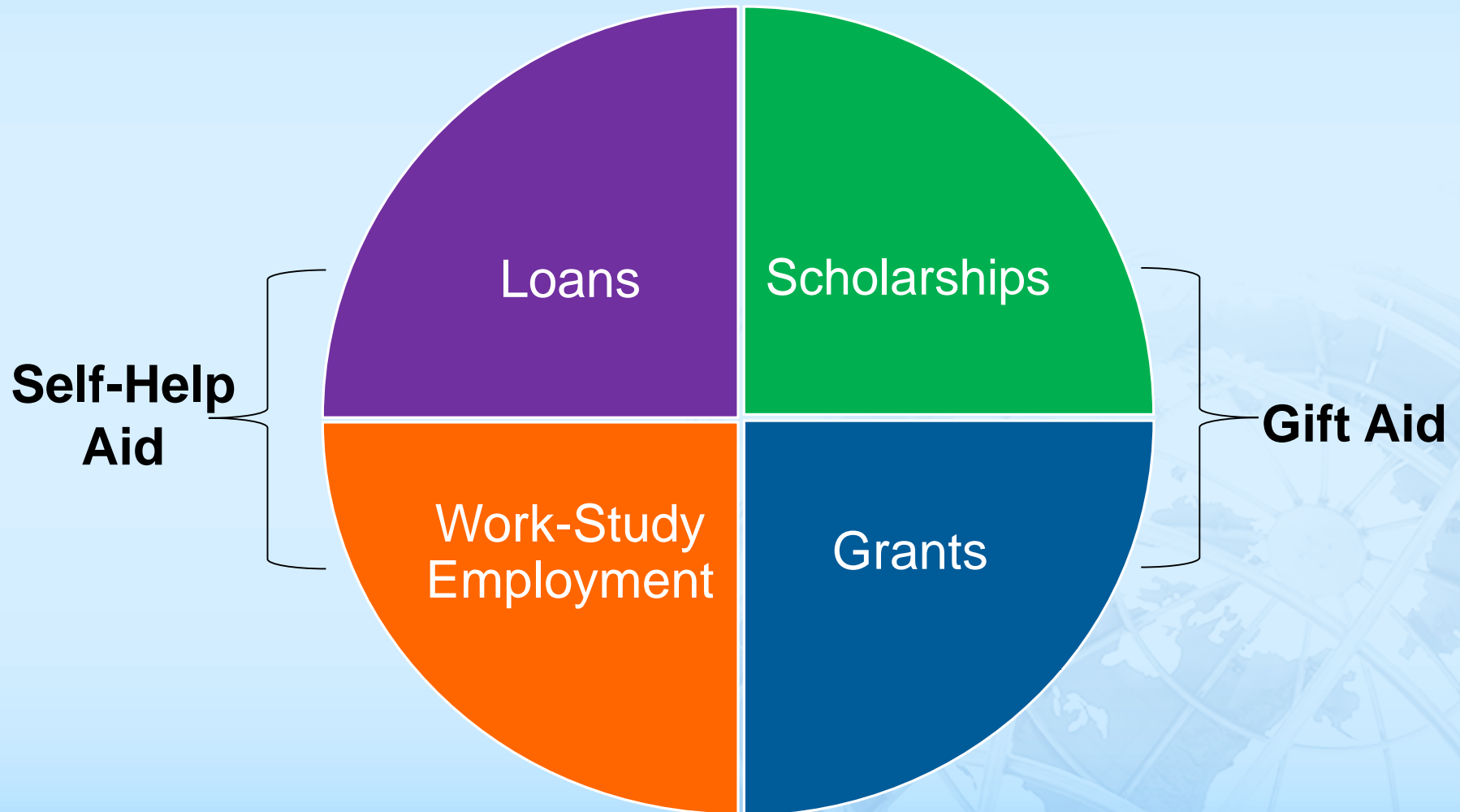


Need-based
aid

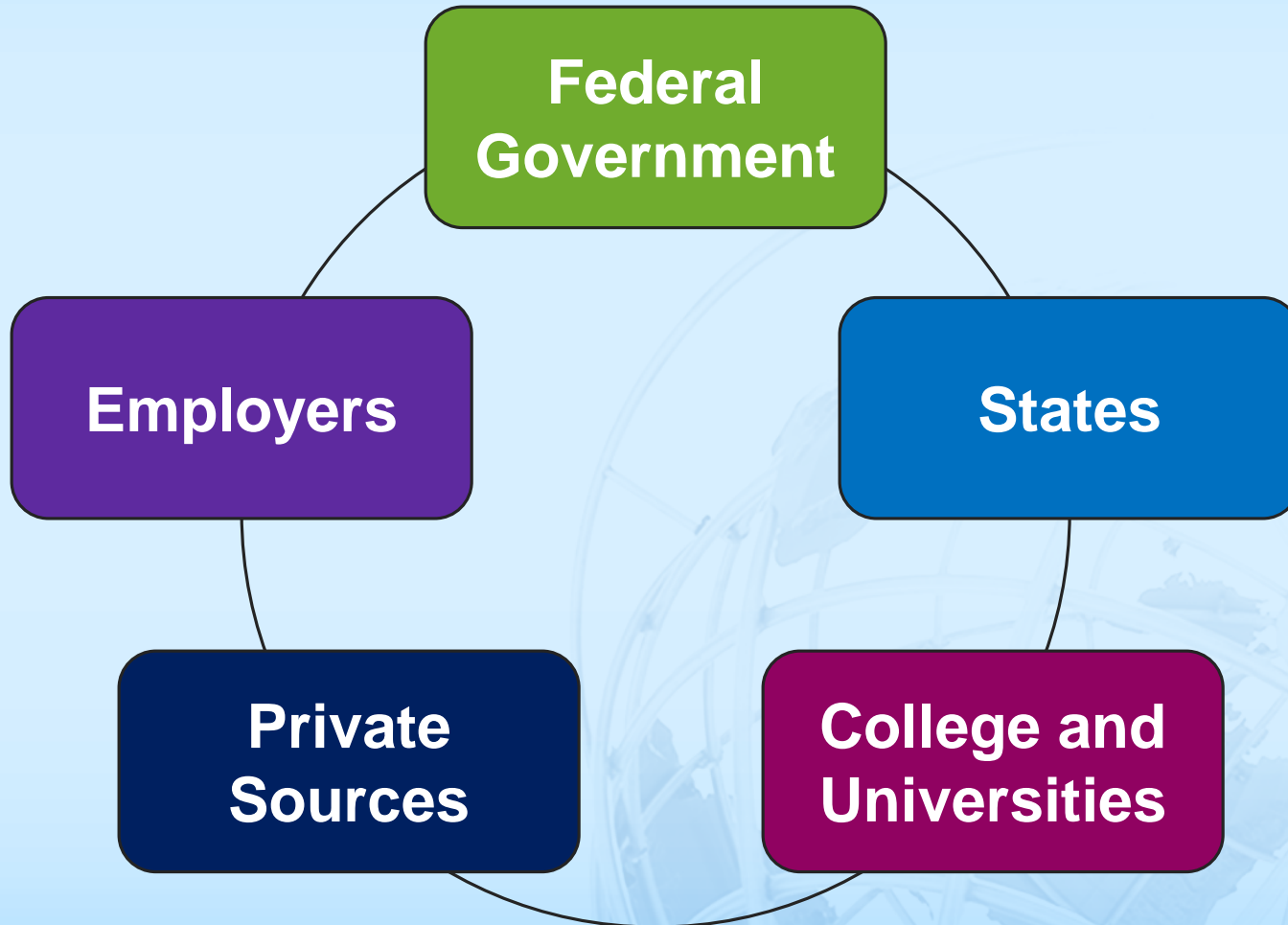


Non-need-
based aid


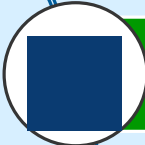


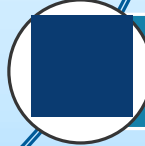
Types of Financial Aid



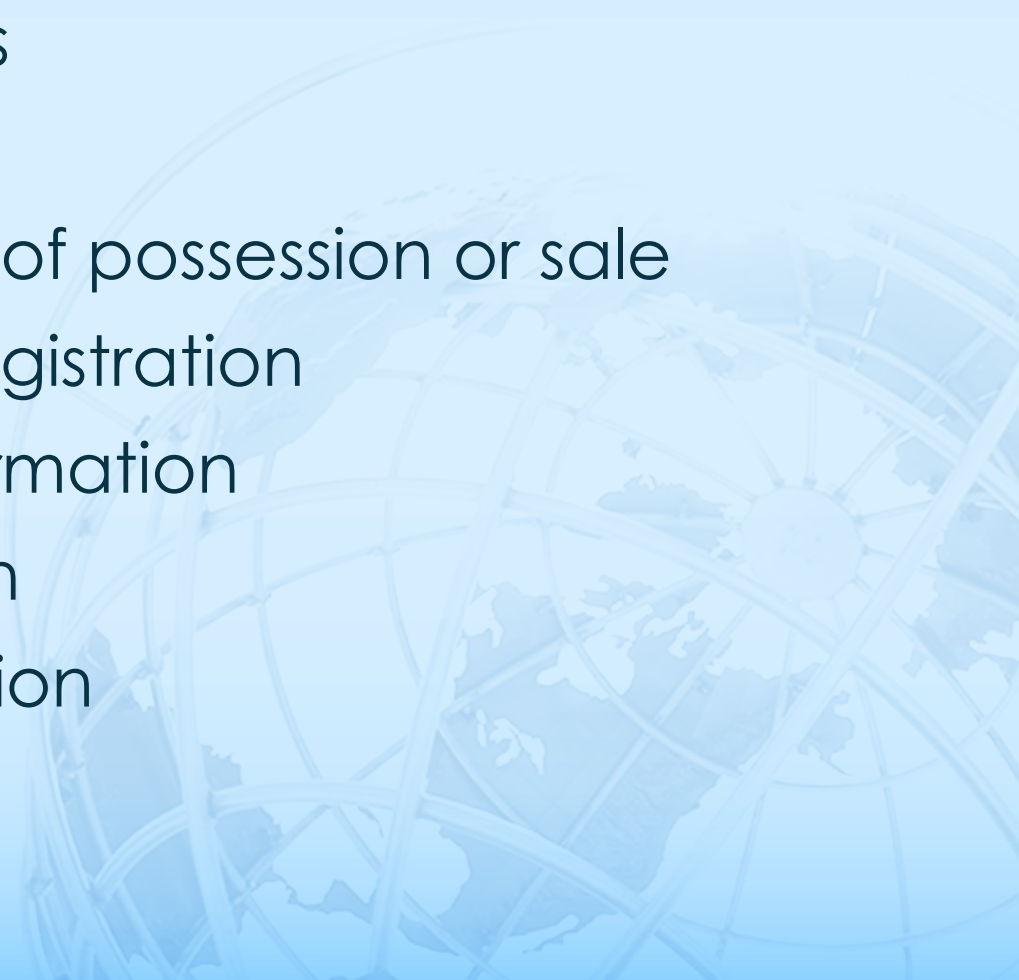
Sources of Financial Aid



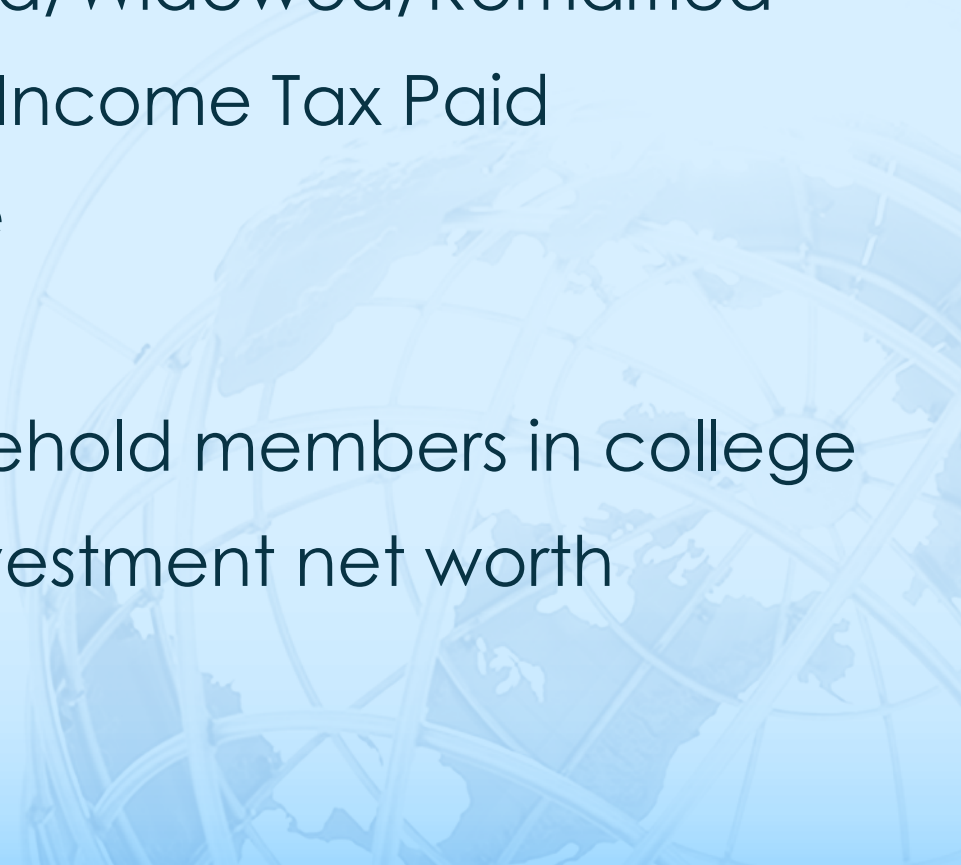
Free Application for federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

-  FAFSA on the Web (FOTW)
-  myStudentAid mobile app
-  Paper or PDF FAFSA
-  FAFSA on the Phone (FOTP)
-  FAA Access to CPS Online

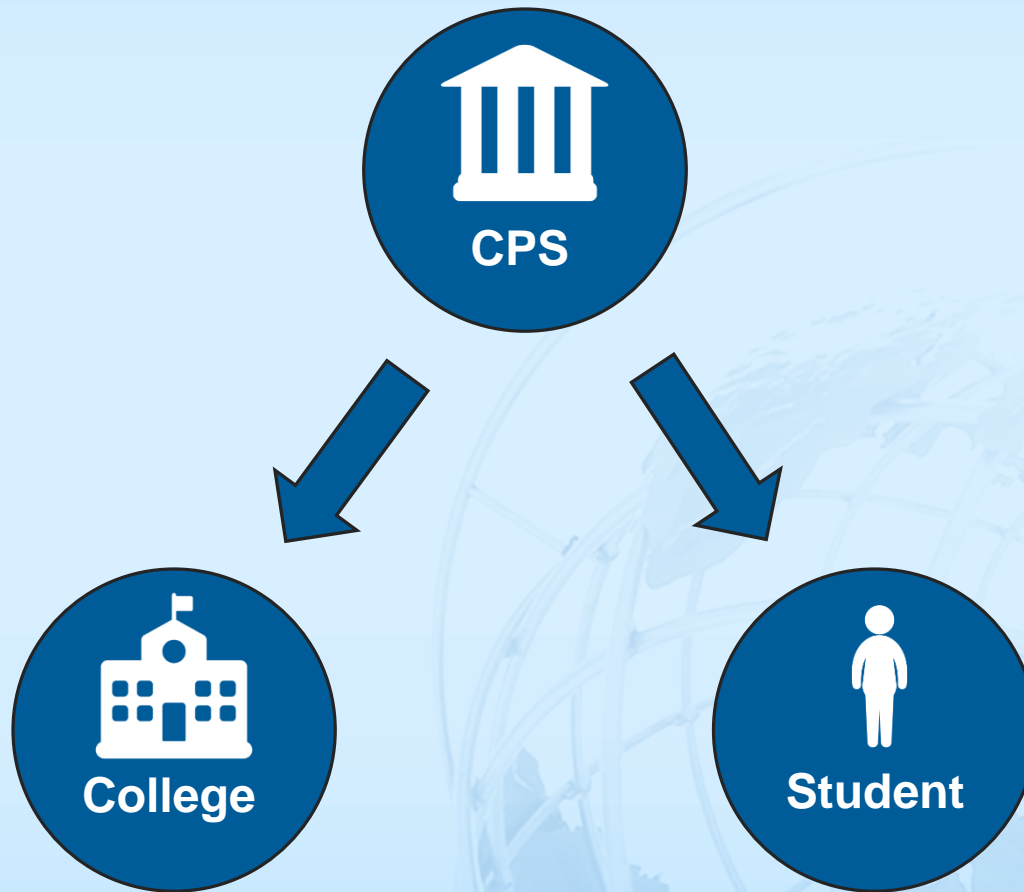
Gathering Information

- Social Security Number & DOB
 - Citizenship status
 - Marital status
 - Drug conviction of possession or sale
 - Select Service registration
 - Income/tax information
 - Asset information
 - College information
 - Housing plans
- 

Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Numbers & Dates
 - Divorced/Married/Widowed/Remarried
 - Income Earned/Income Tax Paid
 - Untaxed income
 - Household size
 - Number of household members in college
 - Real Estate & Investment net worth
 - Assets
- 

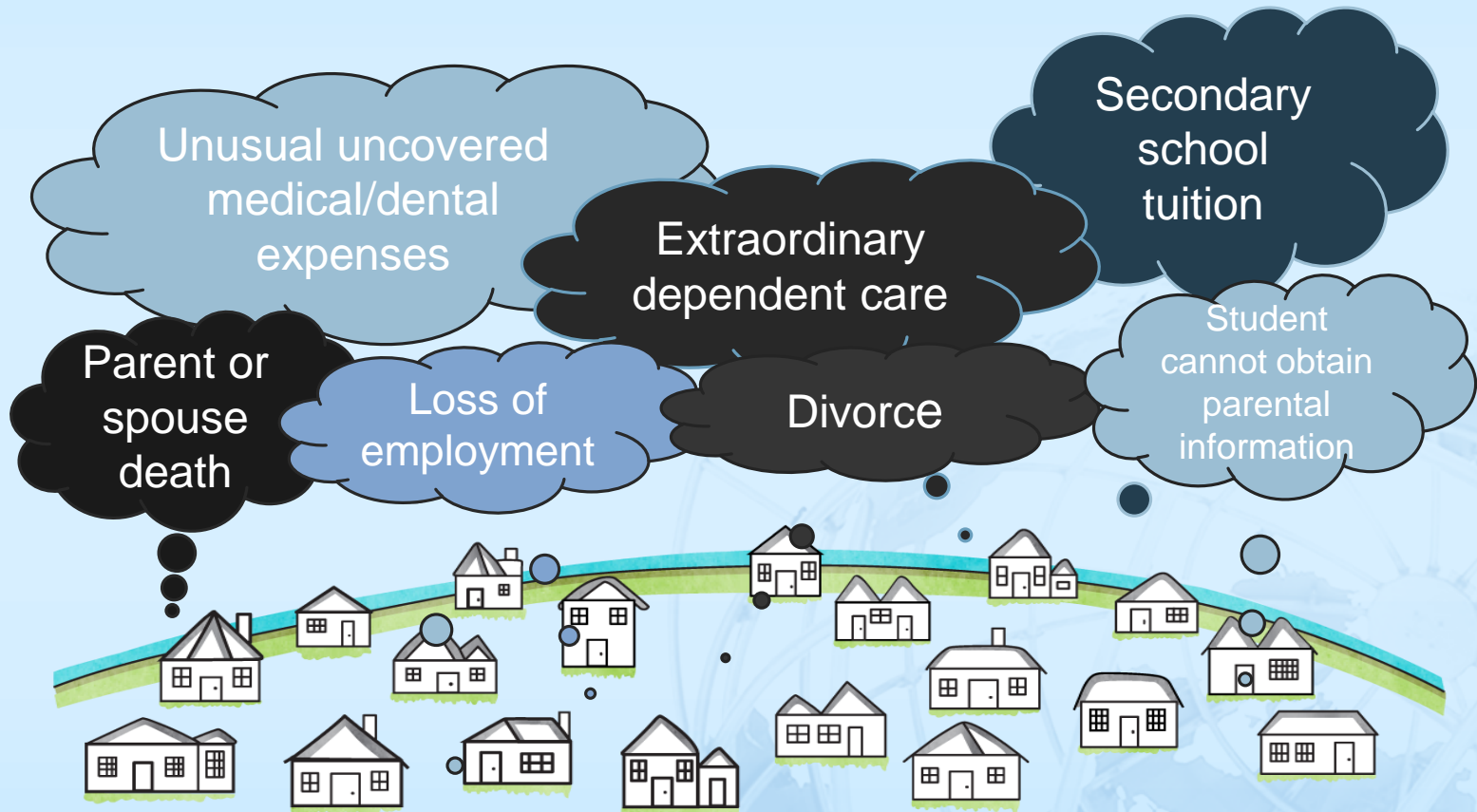
FAFSA Processing Results



Special Circumstances

- Conditions exist that cannot be documented with the FAFSA
- Submit written explanation and documentation to your college's financial aid office
- College will review and may request additional information if necessary
- Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education

Examples



Scholarships

- ▶ A scholarship is money given by individuals, companies or organizations based either on need, merit, or some other qualification.
- ▶ Considered “gift aid”, which means free money
- ▶ Does not usually require you to file a FAFSA (check with donor)



Playing the Odds

Biggest mistake is heading for the national scholarship searches first

- Are highly competitive (tens of thousands of applicants)
- Criteria often broader (you'll have to be at the TOP of many categories)
- Doesn't mean you shouldn't apply.....

Playing the Odds

Local scholarships offer better odds

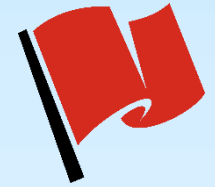
- Fewer applicants/less competition
- Local donors WANT to award the scholarship to a local student
- Your college has even fewer applicants
- Often more specific criteria – you'll know you're a perfect fit!

Suggested Sequence

To maximize your scholarship odds, apply in the following order:

- The college(s) you are attending
 - Don't forget to speak to the department of your major. These scholarships are often not advertised.
- Local companies, organizations, houses of worship, etc.
- National scholarships/big search engines

Scholarship Scams



Be alert for the following red flags:

- ▶ A scholarship is guaranteed or your money back
- ▶ Credit card or bank information to “hold” scholarship
- ▶ Vague or no contact information
- ▶ “You’ve been selected” or “You’re a finalist” in a contest you didn’t enter
- ▶ “You can’t get this information anywhere else”
- ▶ Masquerading as a government agency

Scam Alert cont.

Scholarship scams are against the law!

If you encounter any of these situations, report them to the:

- Federal Trade Commission @ www.ftc.gov
- National Fraud Information Center @ www.fraud.org

Also visit:

www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml

CSS Profile

- The PROFILE is an online application that collects information used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to award **institutional** funds (**NON-federal** funds).
- For the 2019-2020 year, the PROFILE can be filed as early as October 1, 2018, but no later than 2 weeks before the EARLIEST priority deadline of the schools you're applying to.
- Check your college's/program's information to determine if they require the PROFILE (can find a list on collegeboard.org).

CSS Profile cont.

- You can print the Pre-Application Worksheet and Instructions to review with parents and fill out at home before applying online.
 - The fee for the initial application and one college or program is \$25. Additional reports are \$16.
 - Fee waivers* are granted automatically – based on the information entered on the PROFILE application – to students who are first-time college applicants and are from families with low incomes and assets. (Int'l students are not eligible for fee waivers).
- *pays for up to 8 colleges/scholarship programs

Good Luck!

