

Financial Aid Resources – Financial Aid includes Merit-based scholarships, Need-based grants, Student and Parent Loans and Work-Study.

www.fafsa.ed.gov – FAFSA stands for FREE Application for Federal Student Aid. Only use this website for the FAFSA: **www.fafsa.ed.gov**. All seniors going to college must apply starting January 1st of senior year! This form will not be shown or accessible on the website until January 1st of your Senior year. Remember, you are completing the form for the school year that you will be entering college. For example if you are a High School Senior as of January 1, 2014, then you will need to fill out the 2014 – 2015 form and you will need to use your 2013 tax information as soon as it is available. HOWEVER, you should submit your FAFSA with your 2012 tax information in order to have the FAFSA submitted on time AND then go back and update your FAFSA with the 2013 tax information once you have that information available. It is extremely important to submit the FAFSA on time. In Maryland the State priority deadline is March 1st. Some schools (Even Maryland State schools) have an earlier deadline, check with the schools to which you are applying, and submit by that deadline.

NOTE: The FAFSA should be completed annually for the next school year that you will be entering.

www.pin.ed.gov – student and parent/guardian will need a PIN for the FAFSA

Need help with the FAFSA?

1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 1-319-337-5665

Also you can contact the college you are applying to for help. College of Southern Maryland will assist you regardless of where you are going to college, as will most other colleges.

If you have special financial circumstances (i.e. Job loss, medical bills, etc.) that can not be explained on the application contact the financial aid office for the college you will be attending for assistance.

Websites to search for more scholarships and grants

www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.students.gov

www.mhec.state.md.us - Maryland State Site

www.weeklyscholarshipalert.org

www.americorps.org

www.salliemafund.org

www.mapccs.org

www.fastweb.com - Great for seniors and younger students

www.finaid.com

www.military.com

www.wiredscholar.com

www.centuralsb.org - scholarships and no-interest loans

www.schoolsoup.com

www.cappex.com

www.freescholarshipguide.com

www.meritaid.com

www.schoolguides.com

www.freeeducationguide.com

www.princetonreview.com

Check the websites of the colleges you are applying to.

College of Southern Maryland – Apply as early as January of your senior year at <https://express.csmd.edu/cgi-bin/apply/index.html> . Once you have received your student ID number go to <http://www.csmd.edu/Financial/scholarships> this website is usually available in February. Be sure to read the important information and the frequently asked questions then click on apply know and register for the scholarship finder. This scholarship search should be in addition to the websites above. Remember CSM requires you to complete the FAFSA by March 1st to be eligible for all scholarships and grants that the college administers.

You will also need to take the College of Southern Maryland Placement test. You can take this at La Plata High School near the end of April or you can schedule a time to take it at the college campus.

(In January after you have applied to CSM, sign up in the Career Center if you want to take the CSM Placement test at LPHS in March.)

Extra Note: Make sure to proof-read all essays and applications and then have someone else proof-read your essays and applications. Use your time wisely; you may be able to use one essay for several scholarships or college applications! Just be sure if you personalized it to a specific person, scholarship or school that you change the information as appropriate.