

HCS SCHOLARS ACADEMY
HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR/SENIOR
FALL MEETING
2025-26

WWW.REALLYGREATSITE.COM



JUNIOR YEAR IS ABOUT FOCUS

*Your College Dreams and Goals Change From
A Distant Concept Looming in Your Future to an
Actual Reality!*



- FOCUS ON**
- **YOUR GRADES**
 - **PREPARING FOR PSAT/SAT/ACT**
 - **COLLEGE SEARCH**
 - **YOURSELF**

P\$AT-
OCTOBER 8, 2025

**JUNIORS YOUR PERFORMANCE ON PSAT THIS YEAR
COULD MEAN MONEY FOR COLLEGE!**



**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALIST SELECTIONS ARE
BASED UPON 11TH-GRADE SCORES**

- CORPORATE SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS (ANNOUNCED APRIL 2026)
 - \$2500 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS (ANNOUNCED MAY 2026)
- COLLEGE SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS (ANNOUNCED JUNE 2026 & JULY 2026)

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE PSAT?

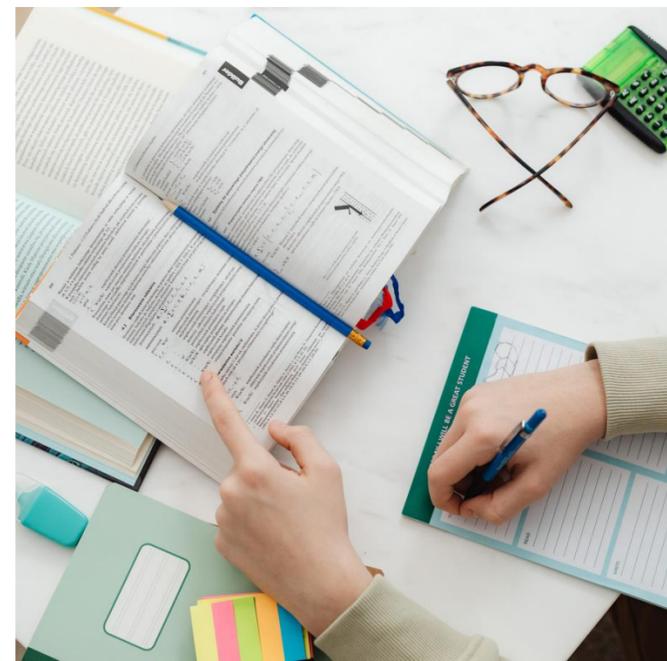
01

**BLUEBOOK-
FULL LENGTH DIGITAL
PRACTICE TEST**



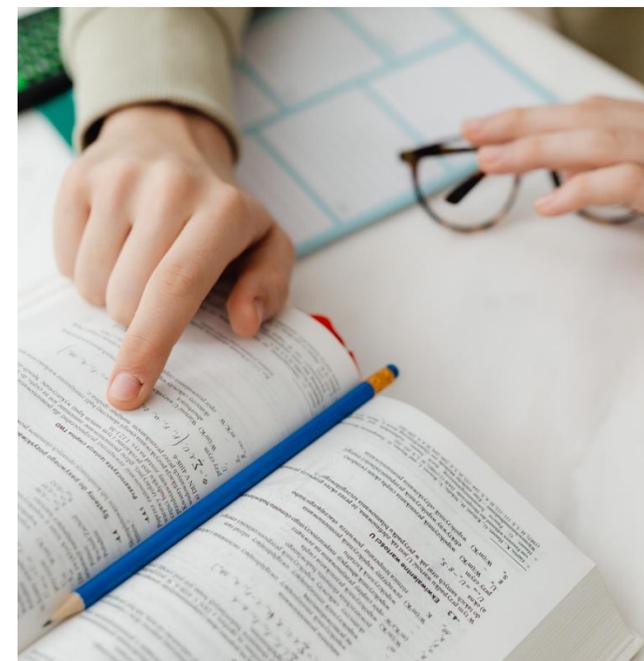
02

**KHAN ACADEMY
OFFICIAL COLLEGEBOARD
STUDY TOOL-GUIDES
YOUR PRACTICE BASED
UPON YOUR PREVIOUS
SCORES.**



03

**SCHOLARS ACADEMY
TEACHER LED
WORKSHOPS
2:30-3:30
TUESDAY-FRIDAY
MR. GUNNELLS &
MS. ZHANG**



04

**NOTIFY YOUR
PROFESSOR IF YOU
WILL BE MISSING A
CCU COURSE.**

**IF MR. MCQUEEN NEEDS TO EMAIL
YOUR PROFESSOR LET HIM KNOW
BY OCTOBER 3, 2025.**



SAT/ACT NATIONAL TESTING DATES 2025-26

SAT

NOVEMBER 8

(Juniors should consider registering for this date)

DECEMBER 6

MARCH 14

MAY 2

JUNE 6

[REGISTER FOR THE SAT](#)

ACT

OCTOBER 18

(Juniors should consider registering for this date)

DECEMBER 13

FEBRUARY 14

APRIL 11

JUNE 13

JULY 11

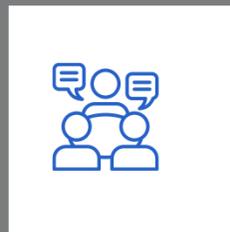
[REGISTER FOR THE ACT](#)

11TH GRADE COLLEGE & CAREER READY TESTING



SCHOOL DAY SAT/ACT

OPTION TO TAKE EITHER
SAT OR ACT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY
SPRING, 2026



SC WIN CAREER-READY ASSESSMENT

SC WIN IS AN ASSESSMENT THAT TESTS
JOB SKILLS IN WORK READY MATH,
WORK READY READING, WORK READY
DATA AND SOFT SKILLS.
SPRING, 2026



SAT OR ACT?

SAT

TEST IS STRUCTURED UPON

- EVIDENCE BASED READING
- MATH
- ONLY GIVEN IN DIGITAL FORMAT



FEE WAIVERS

IF YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FEE WAIVERS.

SEE MRS. WILLIAMS FOR MORE INFORMATION.



ACT

TEST IS STRUCTURED UPON

- ENGLISH
- MATH
- READING
- SCIENCE (optional)
- PAPER & DIGITAL FORMAT



COLLEGES USE BOTH EXAMS FOR ADMISSIONS AND MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS.



PALMETTO FELLOWS--SAT 1400/ACT 31

11TH GRADE COLLEGE TOUR

JOIN US FOR AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO 3 OF THE MAJOR S.C. UNIVERSITIES WHERE WE WILL TOUR EACH CAMPUS AND MEET WITH ADMISSIONS COUNSELORS AND HONORS COLLEGE FACULTY/STAFF.

MARCH 2-3, 2026

APPROXIMATELY \$100 FEE FOR EACH ATTENDEE. THIS COVERS HOTEL STAY AND TRANSPORTATION VIA A LOCAL CHARTER COMPANY.

PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

***PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE MEALS.**





STEM DAY

OCT. 9, 2025

Students should use this link to register for the event: <https://apply.coastal.edu/register/stemday2025>

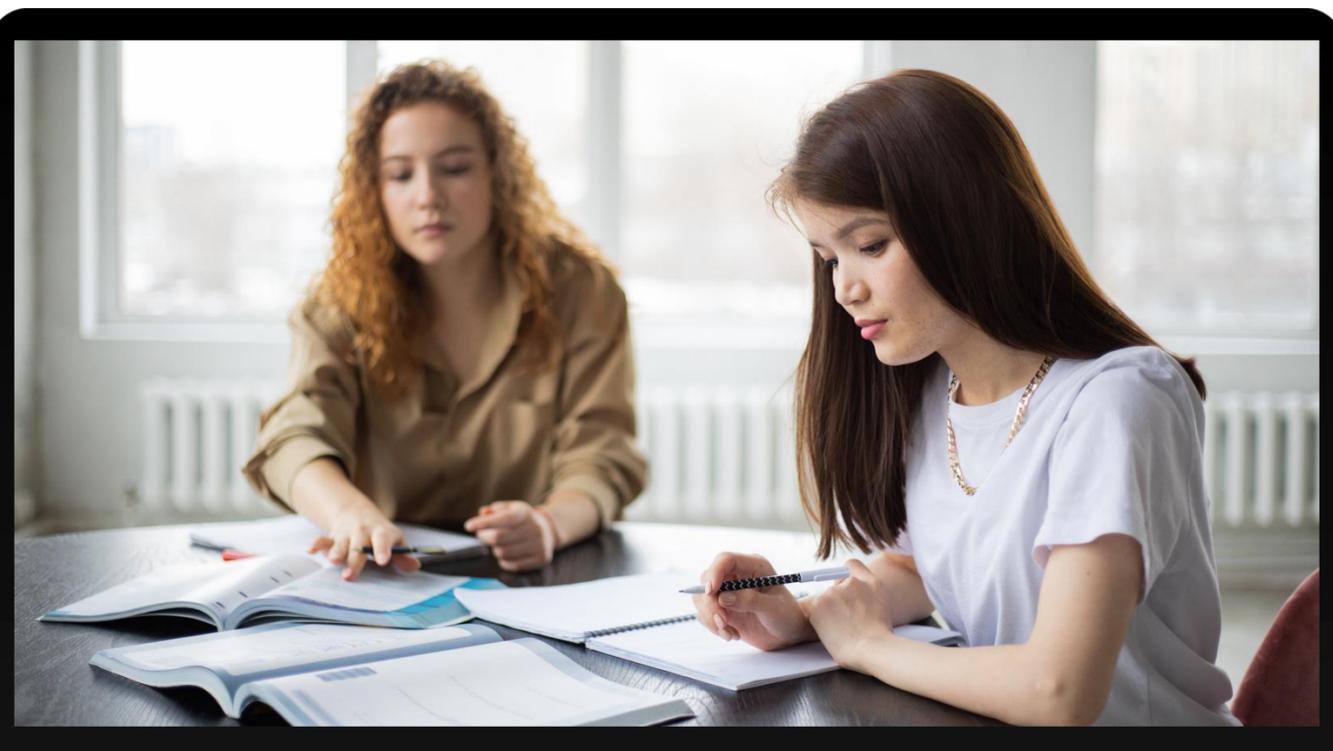
JUNIOR MARSHAL SELECTION

- ❑ SELECTIONS ARE BASED UPON CUMULATIVE WEIGHTED GPA AT THE END OF THE FALL SEMESTER OF JUNIOR YEAR
- ❑ THE TWELVE STUDENTS WITH THE HIGHEST GPA IN THE CLASS ARE CHOSEN
- ❑ SELECTED STUDENTS ARE NOTIFIED IN MAY
- ❑ JUNIOR MARSHALS TAKE SPRING FINAL EXAMS WITH SENIORS



12TH GRADERS YOU MADE IT TO SENIOR YEAR!

NOW STAY ON TRACK



- MAINTAIN YOUR GRADES
- PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES
- FINALIZE YOUR COLLEGE LIST
- GET YOUR QUESTBRIDGE/COMMON APP SUBMITTED EARLY
- PRACTICE AND TAKE SAT/ACT IF NEEDED
- COMPLETE FAFSA BY JANUARY 1 (PREFERRED)
- APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
- REVIEW ACCEPTANCES AND MAKE YOUR DECISION
- CELEBRATE!

TYPES OF DEADLINES

- EARLY DECISION-**BINDING**
- EARLY ACTION-**NON-BINDING**
 - REGULAR DECISION
 - ROLLING ADMISSIONS
- UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES





APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- **COMMON APP**

[APPLY THROUGH COMMON APP](#)

- **QUESTBRIDGE (Deadline: Sept. 30)**

[52 COLLEGE PARTNERS](#) ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING STUDENTS LIKE YOU. APPLY FOR FREE TO THE NATION'S BEST COLLEGES AND BE CONSIDERED FOR EARLY ADMISSION AND A FULL FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP. THE NATIONAL COLLEGE MATCH APPLICATION GIVES YOU EXTRA SPACE TO TELL YOUR UNIQUE STORY AS A STUDENT WHO HAS EXCELLED ACADEMICALLY DESPITE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

[APPLY THROUGH QUESTBRIDGE](#)

- **INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**





APPLICATION DEADLINES

CLEMSON EARLY ACTION DEADLINE: OCT. 15

CLEMSON HONORS COLLEGE PRIORITY-OCT. 22

CLEMSON HONORS COLLEGE GENERAL-JAN. 8

USC EARLY ACTION DEADLINE: OCT. 15

USC HONORS COLLEGE DEADLINE: NOV. 15

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON EARLY ACTION: NOV.1

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON HONORS DEADLINE: NOV. 1

FURMAN EARLY DECISION(Binding) DEADLINE: NOV. 15

FURMAN EARLY ACTION(Non-Binding) DEADLINE: DEC. 1

WOFFORD EARLY DECISION (Binding)DEADLINE: NOV. 1

WOFFORD EARLY ACTION (Non-Binding)DEADLINE: NOV. 15

WOFFORD EARLY DECISION II (Binding) DEADLINE: JAN. 15

DUKE EARLY DECISION DEADLINE(Binding): NOV. 1

MOST IVY LEAGUE EARLY DEADLINES: NOV. 1

TIPS TO MAKE COLLEGE PLANNING LESS STRESSFUL

- **READ YOUR EMAIL DAILY AND PAY ATTENTION TO ANNOUNCEMENTS.**
- **USE A PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS.**
- **KEEP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA CLEAN.**
- **CHECK SCHOLARS ACADEMY GUIDANCE WEBPAGE AND SCHOODOLOGY UPDATES REGULARLY FOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!**
- **SHARE COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AND FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS WITH MRS. WILLIAMS.**



IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

01

APPLY AS A FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN

02

GIVE RECOMMENDERS AT LEAST A 10 BUSINESS DAY NOTICE.

[LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION LINK](#)

03

OFFICIAL SAT & ACT TEST SCORES MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM THE TESTING PROGRAM FOR OFFICIAL APPLICATIONS.

04

**PLEASE USE:
gwilliams006@horrycountyschools.net
FOR MRS. WILLIAMS EMAIL ON
COMMON APP.**

UPCOMING COLLEGE EVENTS



**CACRAO HCS ED/OP FOR
STUDENTS & PARENTS
OCTOBER 7, 2024
SCHOLARS ACADEMY
COMMONS AREA 5:30-7:00 P.M.
[Click here for registration flyer](#)**

LUNCH WITH COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES AT SCHOLARS

VARIOUS COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES WILL VISIT DURING LUNCH TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR SCHOOLS AND APPLICATION PROCESS. ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE AHEAD OF A PLANNED VISIT.

DAVIDSON COLLEGE—SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

YALE UNIVERSITY—OCTOBER 9, 2025



DATES TO REMEMBER!



- **OCTOBER 15 – JOSTENS VISIT**
CLASS RING/GRADUATION SUPPLIES
AT 11:30 A.M.
- **MARCH 4-7 – DISNEY SENIOR TRIP**
\$250 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT DUE BY
SEPTEMBER 30TH
- **AWARDS CEREMONY & GRADUATION**
DATES AND TIMES WILL BE RELEASED IN FEBRUARY

AP TESTING DATES 2025-26

WEEK 1	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MONDAY, MAY 4	BIOLOGY	EUROPEAN HISTORY
TUESDAY, MAY 5	CHEMISTRY HUMAN GEO	US GOV. & POLITICS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6	ENGLISH LITERATURE	COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT PHYSICS 1
THURSDAY, MAY 7	WORLD HISTORY	STATISTICS
FRIDAY, MAY 8	US HISTORY	NO TESTING

WEEK 2	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MONDAY, MAY 11	CALCULUS AB CALCULUS BC	CAPSTONE SEMINAR
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	NO TESTING
FRIDAY, MAY 15	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	NO TESTING
MAY 18-22	LATE TESTING BY SUBJECT	LATE TESTING BY SUBJECT

FINAL EXAMS

HCS SCHOLARS ACADEMY FINAL EXAM DATES



FALL DECEMBER 18-19, 2025
SPRING TBD

CCU FINAL EXAM DATES



FALL DECEMBER 5-11, 2025
SPRING MAY 1-7, 2026



Paying for College: Financial Aid Workshop

Shared by:

Caitlin Lacey

Outreach Manager



Four Ways to Pay for College

- **Grants** – Money that is given to you
- **Scholarships** – Money that is given to you because of academic achievement, talent, skill, or financial need
- **Work** – Money you earn from a job on or off campus
- **Loans** – Money you borrow and must repay



HELPFUL WEBSITES



Federal Student Aid

www.studentaid.gov

- Apply for an FSA ID (both student and at least one parent)
- Complete the FAFSA

www.collegescorecard.ed.gov

- Search and compare colleges (major, costs, admissions, results, etc.)
- Search fields of study
- Create a school list to meet your needs

Find the right fit
Search and compare colleges: their fields of study, costs, admissions, results, and more.

SEARCH SCHOOLS SEARCH FIELDS OF STUDY **SHOW ME OPTIONS**

Select one or more options to create a list of schools that fit your needs.

<input type="checkbox"/> Schools Near Me	<input type="checkbox"/> I Want a Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/> Most People Get In ⓘ	<input type="checkbox"/> I Want an Associate's Degree
<input type="checkbox"/> Most People Graduate ⓘ	<input type="checkbox"/> I Want a Bachelor's Degree

Find Schools



Cost of Attendance (COA)

COA is the amount it will cost a student to go to school

- Tuition and Fees
- Living Expenses (Varies based on living on-campus, off-campus or commuting from home)
- Books and Supplies
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous Expenses
- Loan fees



FAFSA



Completing the FAFSA

What is the FAFSA?

- An application that allows you to apply for federal student aid, which is the largest source of financial aid to help pay for college.

Who should apply?

- Everyone, regardless of income

When should you apply?

- Every year you will attend college
- Release date October 1, 2025
- FAFSA Deadline June 30th

Where to apply?

- www.studentaid.gov and click on 'Create Account'
- Be sure to apply for the next academic school year – 2026–2027



Federal Student Aid ID

FSA ID replace the PIN and allows you to manage all documents related to Federal Student Aid (FAFSA, Master Promissory Note, applying for repayment plans, completing loan counseling and more).

Who needs to apply for an FSA ID:

- Student
- Parent

You* will need:

- SSN
- Cell phone or
- Email address

*Only one SSN can be connected to a cell phone or email address.



Federal Programs



Federal PELL Grant

- Must file FAFSA
- Based on Need
- Award based on enrollment status, FT, PT or Less than half-time
- Undergraduate study only
- Maximum of 12 semesters
- Maximum award - \$8,145 in 2025-2026



Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- Must file FAFSA and receive Pell Grant
- Must have exceptional financial need
- Limited funds – not available at all schools
- Maximum award – \$4,000 a year (Depending on school)



Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH Grant)

Eligibility

- Enrolled in an eligible program
- Agree to teach in a critical subject or in a critical geographical area
- For at least four years within eight years of completing the program for which the TEACH Grant was awarded.

Maximum award – up to \$4,000 per year

How to apply:

- Check with the financial aid office at your institution for availability and application procedures.
- May not show on award letter unless you ask

***Failure to teach requires repayment under terms of an unsubsidized Direct Loan.**



Federal College Work-Study

- Must file FAFSA
- Based on need
- Limited funds
- Students work up to 20 hours/week – earn a paycheck
- Usually on campus



State Programs



Palmetto Fellows Scholarship



Available for attendance at two & four-year institutions in South Carolina



Maximum
Award

\$6,700 during Freshman Year
\$7,500 per year Sophomore
through Senior Year



Must apply during
Senior year of high
school

Deadline for early applications is
April 15
Deadline for final applications is
June 15



School Counselors will help with the application
process



Palmetto Fellows Scholarship*

Initial Eligibility

- Top 6% rank in either 10, 11, or 12 grade
- 1200 or higher SAT (math and critical reading), 25 or higher ACT, and
- 3.50 cumulative GPA on Uniform Grading Scale

OR

- **1400 or higher SAT (math and critical reading), 31 or higher ACT, and**
- **4.00 cumulative GPA on Uniform Grading Scale**

*Continued Eligibility: 3.0 GPA or greater and at least an average of 30 credit hours per academic year at your home institution.



LIFE Scholarship Eligibility*

Initial requirements at a 4-year school:

Any two of these three:

- 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA
- Top 30% of high school class
- 1100+ SAT (math and critical reading) or 22+ ACT

Initial requirements at a 2-year school:

- 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA
- **Maximum award – up to \$5,000 towards the cost of attendance**

*Continued Eligibility Requirements:

3.0 GPA or greater and at least an average of 30 credit hours per academic year.

Earn LIFE Scholarship while in college

3.0 GPA or greater and at least an average of 30 credit hours per academic year.



Enhanced Awards for Palmetto Fellows & LIFE Recipients

Maximum Award:

\$2,500 per year beginning in the Sophomore year

Eligibility Criteria:

- Declare a major in Mathematics, Science or Health related fields *
- Have earned at least 14 credit hours of math or science courses during the Freshman year (including AP courses taken during High School).
- **Education majors**

*A complete list of eligible majors and courses can be found on the SC Commission on Higher Education's website, www.che.sc.gov



SC Tuition Grants

Need-Based *Grant* Program available to Eligible SC Residents attending SC Independent Colleges on a Full-time Basis

First time Freshman Academic Eligibility Criteria

- Must a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED or Adult Education Diploma) and be fully admitted as a degree-seeking student based on the college's academic requirements for admission

Returning students Academic Eligibility Criteria

- Must continue to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress at the college

Students must file FAFSA annually and include a SC Private College

- Annual Application Deadline – June 30
- Maximum award – \$4,800 for 2024-2025

<https://sctuitiongrants.org/>



SC Independent (Private) Colleges & Universities

Allen University – Columbia
Anderson University – Anderson
Benedict College – Columbia
Bob Jones University – Greenville
Charleston Southern University – Charleston
Claflin University – Orangeburg
Clinton College – Rock Hill
Coker College – Hartsville
Columbia College – Columbia
Columbia International University – Columbia
Converse University – Spartanburg

Erskine College – Due West
Furman University – Greenville
Limestone College – Gaffney
Morris College – Sumter
Newberry College – Newberry
North Greenville University – Tigerville
Presbyterian College – Clinton
Southern Wesleyan University – Central
Spartanburg Methodist College – Spartanburg
Voorhees College – Denmark
Wofford College – Spartanburg

www.scicu.org



SC Teaching Fellows Program

To recruit talented high school seniors into the teaching profession and help them develop leadership qualities. Apply online at: www.cerra.org

- Up to \$6,000 per year of a maximum of four years
- The Teaching Fellows Program is available at
 - Anderson University
 - Charleston Southern University
 - Clemson University
 - Coastal Carolina University
 - College of Charleston
 - Francis Marion University
 - Lander University
 - USC Aiken
 - USC Columbia
 - USC Upstate
 - Winthrop University



Scholarships



Scholarship Search Engines

- SC Student Loan College Planning Center: <https://www.scstudentloan.org/college-planning-center/browse-topics/scholarships-and-loans>
- Going Merry: www.goingmerry.com
- Scholarships.com: www.scholarships.com
- CCCF: <https://www.yourfoundation.org/grants-scholarships/scholarships/>
- Fast Web: [Find Scholarships for College and Trade School | Fastweb](#)



College Giveaway

A random drawing:
\$2,500 Every Month

Go to: scstudentloan.org/noeffort

College students, High School Juniors, Seniors and their
Parents are eligible to enter

One entry per person every month.

