



Financial Aid Night



**Presentation is linked in your
Google Classroom 2027!**

Questions that we will answer in this presentation



1 Financial Aid - What is it? Sticker Price

2 How much does college cost, and what is included in the total cost?

3 What makes up Financial Aid?
(Grants, Loans, Work Study,
Scholarships)

College Opportunity Fund -
Colorado Only

4 How does a student receive
financial aid? What is the FAFSA
and CAFAA?



An overhead view of four students sitting around a light-colored round table, studying. The students are a man in a maroon shirt, a woman in a grey shirt, a woman in a black shirt, and a man in a light blue shirt. They are all looking at books or laptops. The table is cluttered with books, papers, sticky notes, and a water bottle. The background is a plain, light-colored floor.

**More than half of
all students
attending college
in the United
States receive
some form of
financial
assistance.**



Financial Aid

Primary goal is to assist students in paying for college and is achieved by:

- Evaluating family's ability to pay educational costs
- Distributing limited resources in an equitable manner
- Providing a balance of gift aid and self-help aid

(Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators)

NET PRICE

Focus on the NET PRICE. Not the STICKER Price.

What is net price?

NET PRICE is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year AFTER subtracting scholarships and grants the student receives.

Why is this useful?

Gives you the best idea of what you'll pay for a particular college and makes comparing schools easier.



Net Price Calculator

Available on a college's website, net price calculators can help prospective students get a better handle on what they will be expected to pay. Students enter information about their family's financial situation to learn what similar students paid to attend the institution in the previous year.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Billable Costs

Tuition

School/Program Fees

On-Campus Housing/Food

These costs **DO** show up on the college bill.

Indirect Costs

Books and Supplies

Off-Campus Housing/Food

Personal Expenses

Travel Costs

These costs **DO NOT** show up on the college bill.



What makes up Financial Aid?

Free Application for Federal Student
Aid (FAFSA)

Or

Colorado Application for Financial Aid
(CAFSA)

- Grants
- Work Study
- Loans
- Institutional Scholarships

Private Scholarships

Financial Aid Applications



FAFSA

Free application for Federal Student Aid, opens October..



CSS Profile

The CSS Profile is an online application to award non-federal aid.

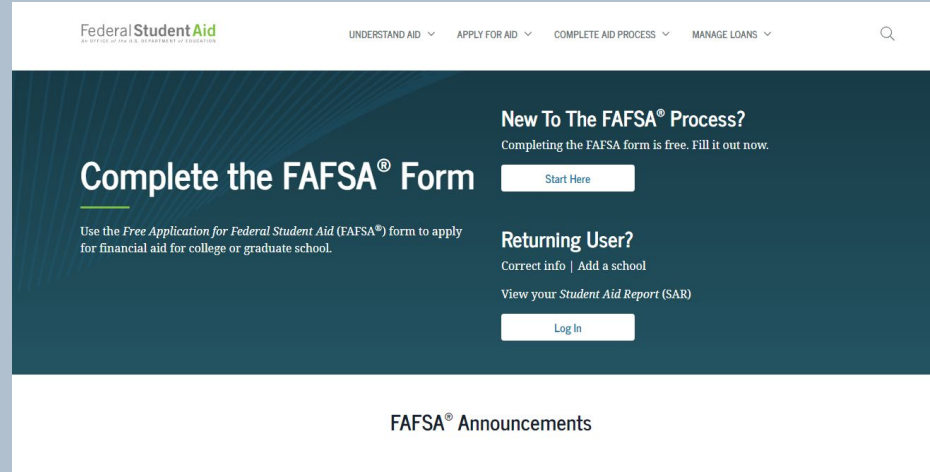


Institutional Aid

Check each school's website for required forms and deadlines.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Completing the FAFSA is the first step in securing **federal aid** for college, career school, or graduate school.



“...ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded financial assistance for education beyond high school.”

What does FAFSA look at?

- FAFSA reviews student and parent taxes two prior years back (Class of 2027 will look at 2025 taxes)
- Number of members in household based on tax exemptions
- Payments towards tax-deferred pensions reported on federal tax return will be considered
- Child Support payment received
- Current available amounts in cash, checking, and savings accounts
- Current net worth of investments (including real estate; excluding your home)
- Current net worth of business and farm income (including small businesses)
- Student has to invite contributors to their FAFSA site

(Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators)

Eligibility for FAFSA

- Must be a US citizen or an eligible noncitizen
- Must have a Social Security Number
- Must have a high school diploma or GED
- Must be enrolled or accepted in eligible program
- Possible Ineligibility: Drug offenses; default on student loans

[Eligibility Guidelines](#)

[Non-US Citizens](#)

Dependency Status

Dependency status is used to determine if a student is independent or not.

- If you're a dependent student, you will report your and your parents' information.
 - Who is a contributor?
- If you're an independent student, you will report your own information (and, if you're married, your spouse's).

Am I a dependent student?

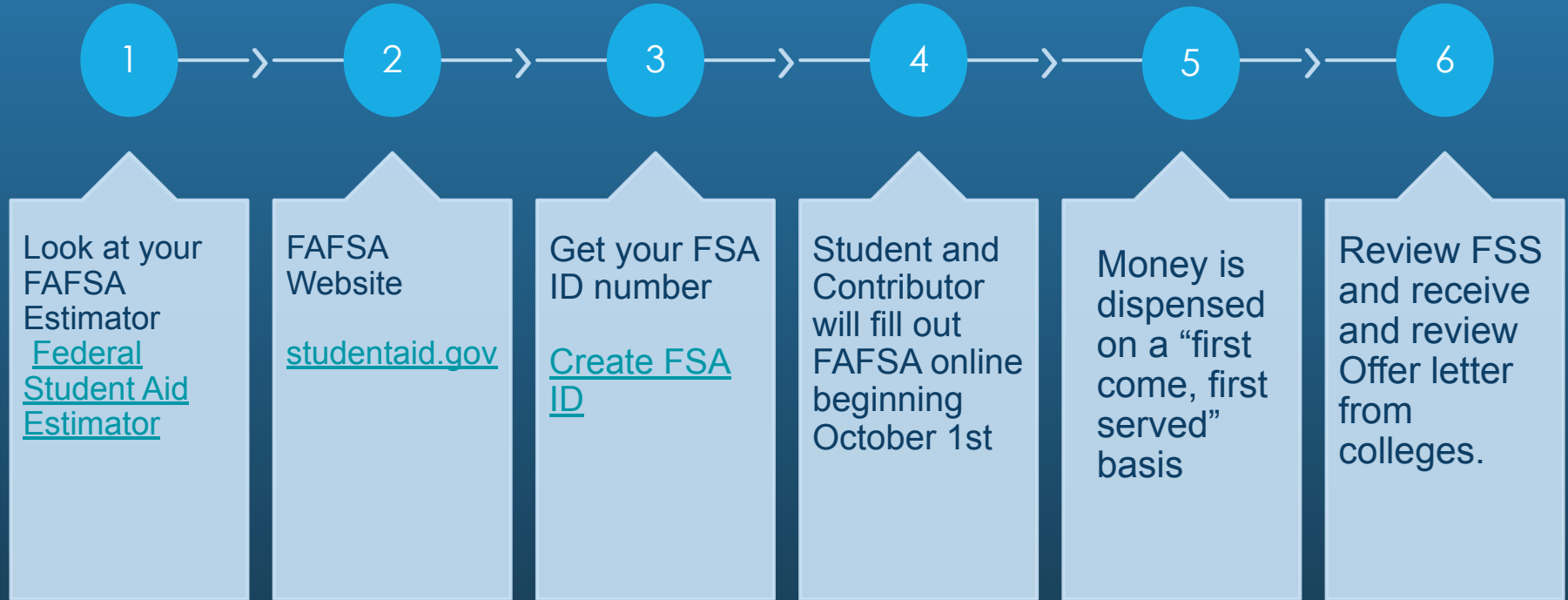
Not Eligible
for FAFSA?

Try CAFSA!

CAFSA is a State of Colorado program that allows state aid to be awarded to students who do not have lawful immigration status but have resided in the state for at least one year before graduating from a Colorado High School or passing a high school equivalency exam.

[CAFSA](#)

FAFSA Process



FILING YOUR FAFSA



Highly recommended.

Filling out FAFSA ensures consideration for institutional scholarships

Be Organized.

Gather all documents needed prior to filling the FAFSA and avoid delays, check for mistakes before submitting information.

Watch deadlines.

Some states have priority deadlines. Check your state's information here.

Remember!

You should not have to pay money to fill out FAFSA. It is FREE!

Each year, the federal government awards roughly \$150 billion to college students through need-based grants, loans, and work-study funds. Filing the FAFSA ensures you are in the running.

FAFSA Support

The City of Brighton will be hosting FAFSA nights for our community!

FAFSA nights would allow students and their families to complete their FAFSA application with the assistance of representatives and other volunteers with FAFSA experience.

December 12, 2026 at PVHS, 5:30-7:00 pm. Students need their chromebooks



Next....

- **FSS (FAFSA Submission Summary)** : a compilation of the numbers the student and parent have given on the FAFSA
- **SAI (Student Aid Index)**: Helps to determine family financial strength to determine Financial Student Aid (FSA) Eligibility
- The **SAI** s sent to the various institutions that the student has applied to. The institution then determines what the **FINANCIAL NEED** of the student is by calculating:

$\text{COST OF ATTENDANCE} - \text{SAI} - \text{Other Financial Aid} = \text{Student Need (Financial Aid needed)}$

Things to Keep in Mind

Full Ride

Less than 20,000 students a year receive a completely free ride to college.

Scholarships/Grants

Among full-time college students enrolled at four-year colleges, just .3% received enough grants and scholarships to cover the full cost of college.



Merit v Need Based

The primary difference between these two types of financial aid is that merit-based scholarships, unlike need-based financial aid, are awarded to students based on academic or other merit rather than demonstrated financial need.

NCAA

The odds of winning a NCAA sports scholarship are low. Only about 2 percent of high school athletes win sports scholarships every year at NCAA colleges and universities. For those who do snag one, the average scholarship is less than \$11,000.

About COF (This is not Financial Aid) State funded tax program

The College Opportunity Fund (COF), created by the Colorado Legislature, provides a stipend that pays a portion of total in-state tuition for eligible undergraduate students who attend a Colorado public institution or a participating private institution. The stipend is paid to the institution on a per-credit-hour basis at an amount set annually by the General Assembly. Check the [official state COF website](#) for the current amount.



01

Student

An undergraduate student.

02

Resident

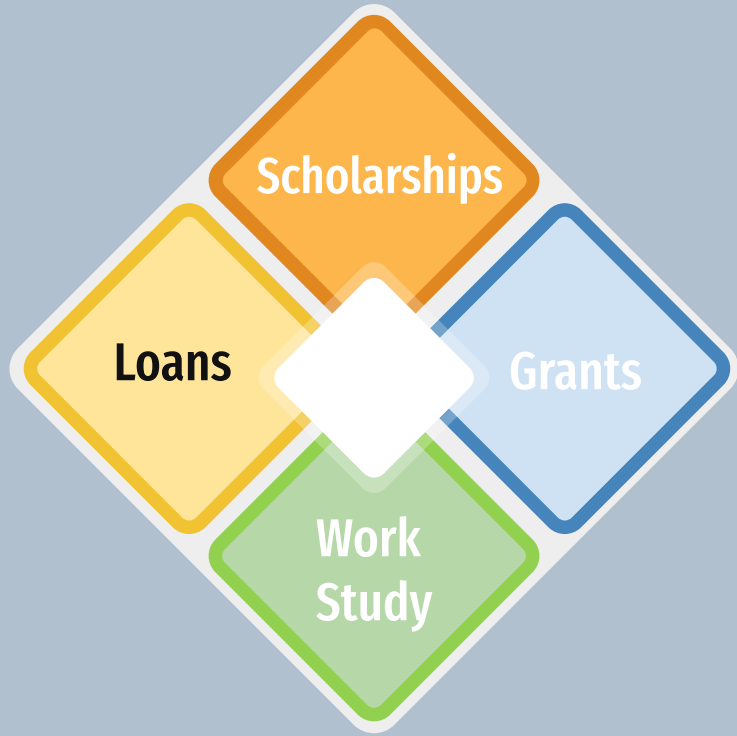
Classified as a [Colorado resident](#) and being charged in-state tuition (some [exceptions](#) apply).

03

Enrolled

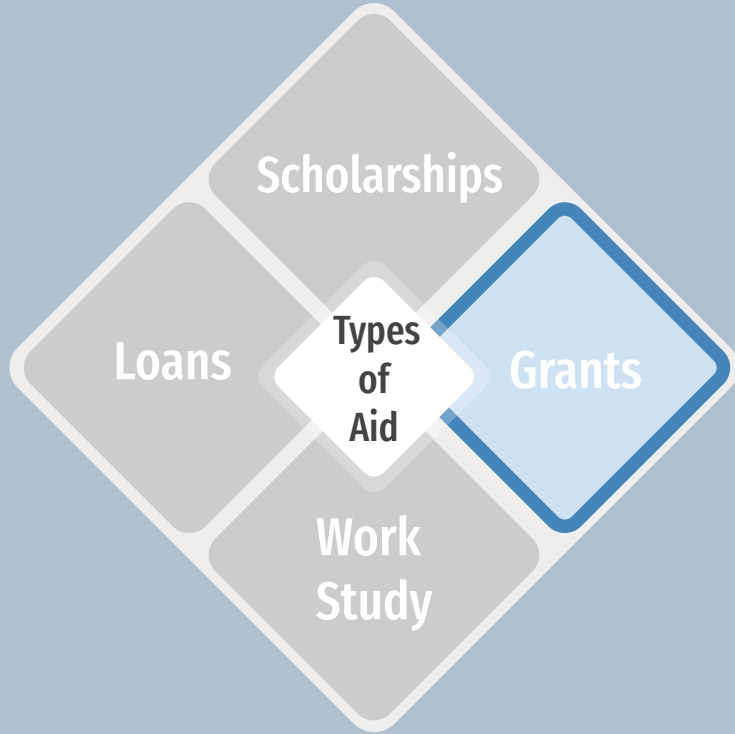
Admitted and enrolled at a Colorado public institution or a participating private institution.

Paid directly to the college by the state for the student attending based on SSN. Public schools \$116; Private Schools \$58

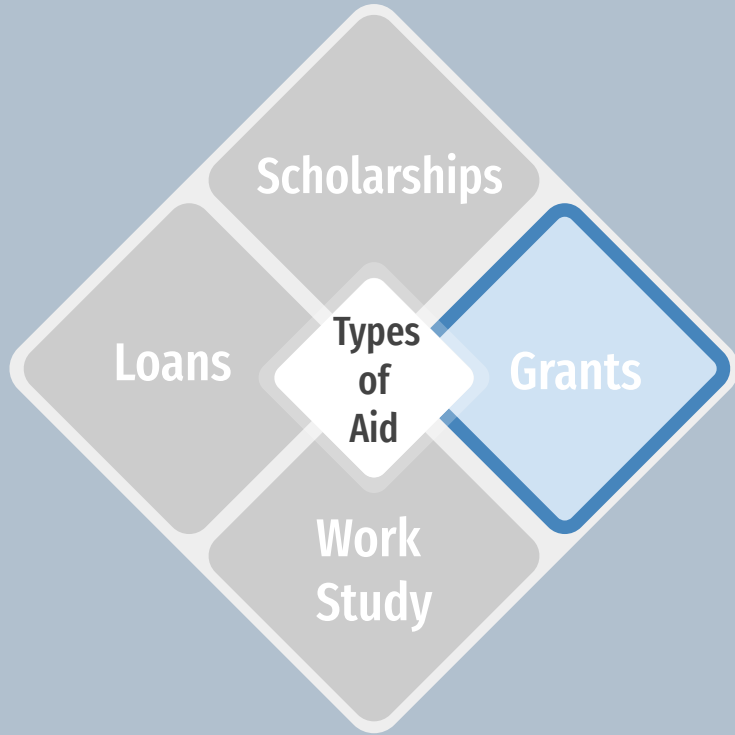


TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Each college or university determines what financial aid the student will receive



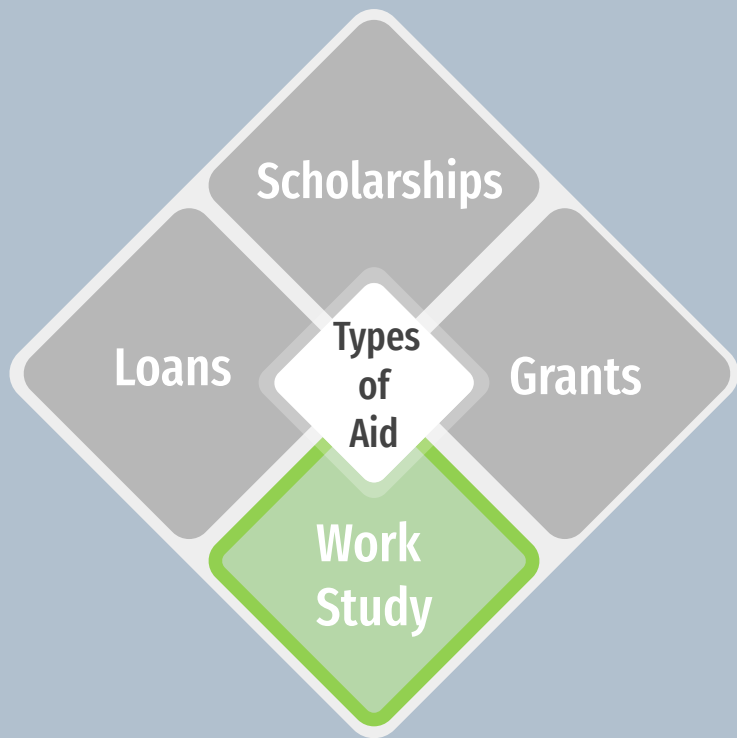
- **Federal Pell Grants**
- **Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)**
- **State Grants**
- **TEACH Grant**
- **Institutional Grants**



Need-based (FAFSA)

- Pell Grants up to \$7395
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (exceptional financial need)
- State Grant
- Institutional Grants
- Private Grants

(Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators)



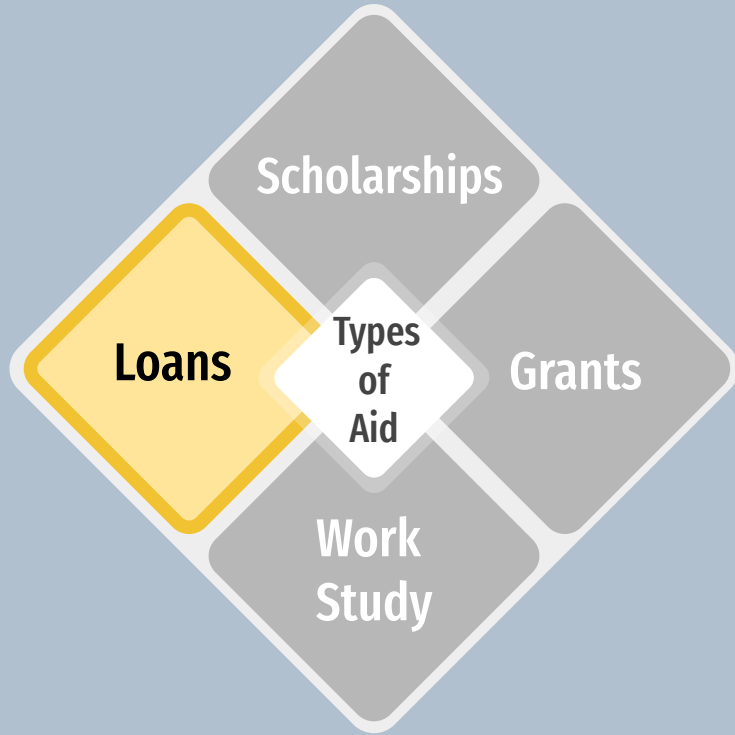
Could be need based or non-need based



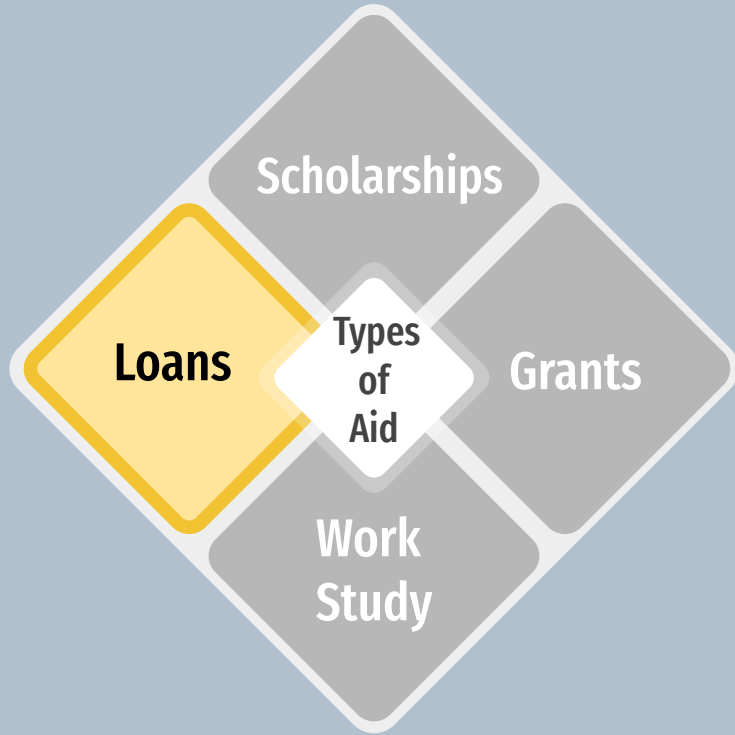
Work on campus 10-20 hours per week



Paid by the hour - money typically deposited into student's account for tuition/housing/food

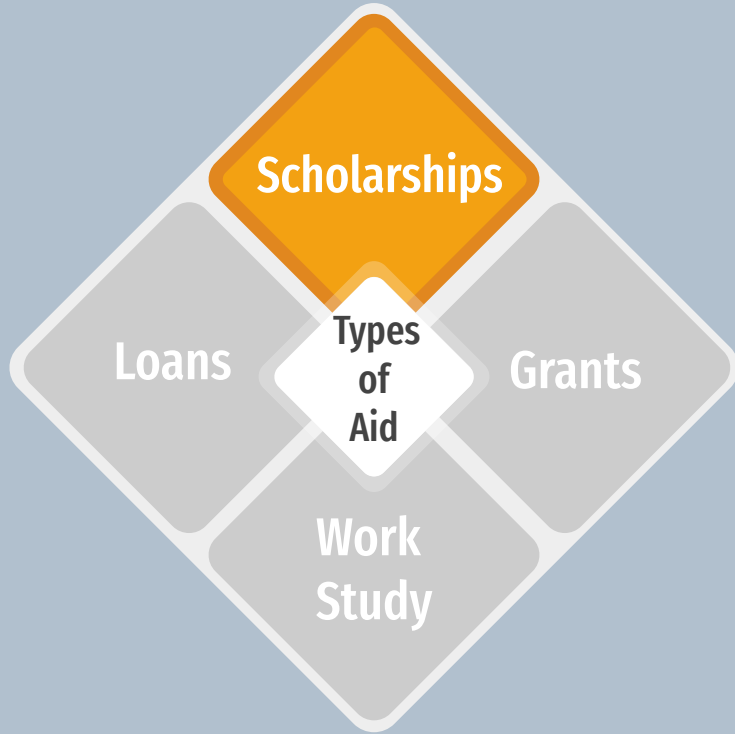


- **Direct Subsidized & Unsubsidized**
- **PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students)**
- **Through College**
- **Private Loans**



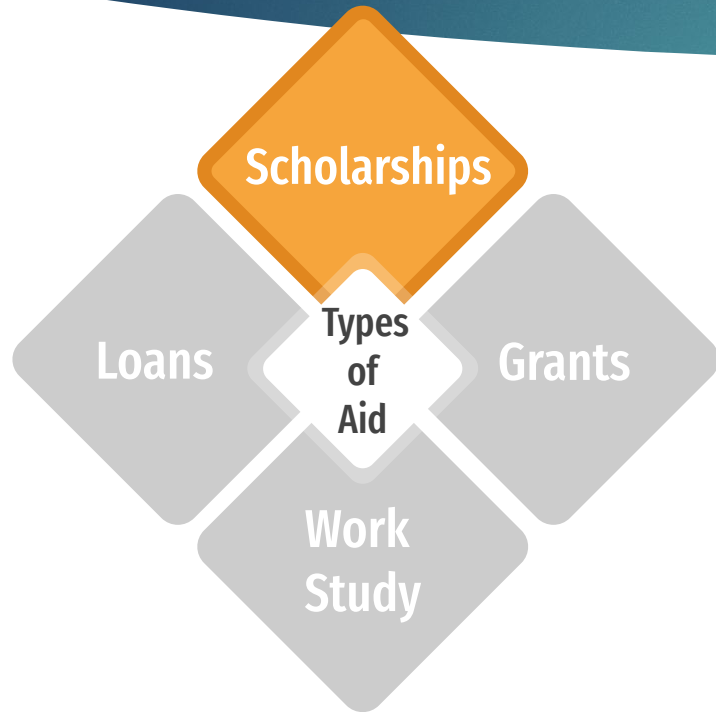
- **Federal Loans**
 - **Direct Subsidized**
 - Need Based 6.52%
 - Interest bearing after
 - **Direct Unsubsidized**
 - Non-Need based 6.52%
 - **PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students)**
 - Non-need based 9.07%
- **Direct Loan Consolidation**
- **Through College**
- **Private Loans**

[Information on Federal Loans](#)



- **Athletic, Academic, Leadership, Theatre, Music**
- **Usually Competitive**
- **Institutional**
- **National**
- **State, Local, or Civic**
- **Private**

Where To Find Private Scholarships



Cappex.com
Finaid.org
Scholarshipmonkey.com
Collegenet.com
Scholarships.com
2027 Google Classroom
SCHOLARSHIP GROUP

[City of Brighton](#)

Fastweb.com
Companies
Banks/Credit
Unions
Civic Organizations
Religious
organizations
Local businesses
Unions

Scholarships Examples

[Boettcher](#)
[Colorado College](#)
[Scholarships](#)
[Daniels Fund](#)

[City of Brighton](#)
[Scholarship](#)
[Website](#)

National



[Coca-Cola Scholars](#)
[A Step Forward Scholarship](#)
[Abbott & Fenner](#)



State

Local



[Brighton Housing Authority](#)
[United Power Scholarship](#)
[27J Education Foundation](#)



Search Engines

BE SMART ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

Thousands of scholarships exist.

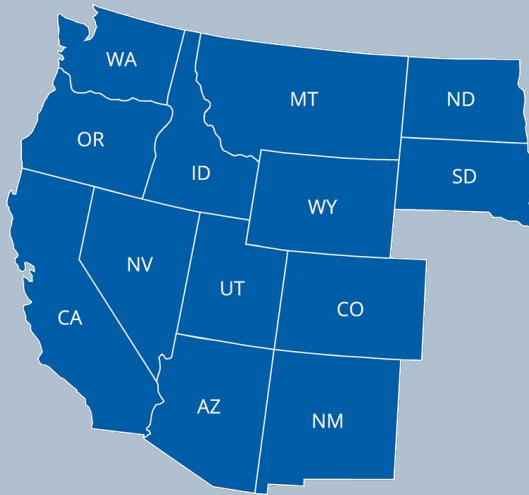
Some colleges automatically consider all applicants for scholarships. Other scholarships from colleges, universities, and private sources require special applications and additional work and motivation to make it happen.



Never pay money to apply to an outside scholarship.

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

An agreement among WICHE's 16 member states and territories, through which 170+ participating public colleges and universities provide steep nonresident tuition savings for Western students. Through WUE, eligible students can choose from hundreds of undergraduate programs outside their home state, and pay no more than 150 percent of that institution's resident tuition rate. Since full nonresident college-tuition rates may exceed 300 percent of resident rates, WUE increases affordable higher-education choices for students, and minimizes the adverse impacts of student loan debt.



U.S. PACIFIC TERRITORIES & FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

- COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
- GUAM
- AMERICAN SAMOA

\$615.5M

2024-2025 student tuition savings through WUE



\$12,517

Average savings per student



40%

Growth in WUE enrollment since 2015



Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Examples of 2024-2025 WUE Tuition Rates

School	In-State Tuition	Non-Resident Tuition	WUE Tuition (resident*1.5)	Savings
Oregon State University	\$12,045	\$36,015	\$18,068	\$17,947
Salt Lake Community College (UT)	\$3,928	\$13,746	\$5,892	\$7,854

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Things to Know



Institutions set their own requirements to qualify for the WUE rate; requirements vary by college



WUE is not automatically awarded to western region residents - you must qualify



Remain in good academic standing to keep your WUE rate.



You can't establish in-state residency while on WUE.

CSS/ FINANCIAL AID PROFILE



Open Date

Available on
October 1st



How?

Use your College
Board Account to
complete the
Financial Aid
PROFILE



Required?

May be required
by some
colleges and
universities



+ FAFSA

CSS / Financial
Aid PROFILE is
in addition to
the FAFSA.

The **PROFILE** is a tool created by the College Board that allows students to complete one form and apply online for **non-federal financial aid** from almost 400 colleges, universities, professional schools, and scholarship programs.

TAKE STEPS TO MINIMIZE DEBT

The majority of students use loans to help finance their college education.



**Don't borrow any more than
you absolutely need.**

Questions?

- Please submit all questions to Mary Beth McKinney (mmckinney@sd27j.net) or Elizabeth Morrone (emorrone@sd27j.net)

If you have a student specific question (scholarship requirements, credit standing, community service hours, etc) please direct them to the student's counselor.

Reach out with questions, comments or concerns.

Last names:

A - Cas

Elizabeth
Morrone
(303)-655-8824

Last names:

Cat - Gog

Rachel
Bauer
(303)-655-8965

Last names:

Goh - Lim

Gina Zelkin
(303)655-8821

Last names:

Lin - Oro

Mary Beth
McKinney
(303)-655-8825

Last names:

Orp - San

Vanessa
Trayler
(303)-655-8827

Last names:

Sao - Z

Catherine
Hicks
(303)655-8822

Students: to request a meeting with your counselor, please email them or set up an appointment through Calendly on the PVHS website under Counselor

Feedback Survey

