

Scholarships: The What & How

Kathy Griswold Fine, Ph.D
Fine Educational Solutions

Introduction

- ▶ There are many scholarships available
- ▶ Access to scholarships typically depends on need and/or willingness to work hard to apply for many
- ▶ The organizations listed in this presentation are well-known and not scams

First Things First: The FAFSA

- ▶ Fill out the FAFSA to access money from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education—that helps you pay for college, career school, or graduate school expenses
- ▶ Complete [here](#) on October 1 for access to
 - ▶ Loans
 - ▶ Grants
 - ▶ Work Study (money is earned through a part-time job, not need to be repaid)
- ▶ Everyone should fill this out.
 - ▶ It's better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it!

CSS Profile: The College Board

- ▶ The College Scholarship Service Profile (CSSS Profile) is a *very in-depth* form that permits college students to apply for non-federal, *need-based* financial aid
- ▶ About 200 undergraduate institutions use CSS Profile and/or IDOC as part of their financial aid process
 - ▶ e.g. UNC Chapel Hill, Duke, Notredame, UVA, NYU, Vanderbilt, Harvard
 - ▶ Click [here](#) for a full list
- ▶ CSS profile due date is institution dependent and may be required
- ▶ Available on October 1

Scholarships Tips

- ▶ While many colleges award merit and needs-based scholarships as part of the admissions process, other opportunities exist
- ▶ It is important to know that many are needs-based, but not all
- ▶ If you want to access scholarships, be prepared to:
 - ▶ Work hard
 - ▶ Read directions carefully
 - ▶ Note deadlines
 - ▶ Be strategic
 - ▶ Remain positive when faced with rejection
 - ▶ **NEVER** pay to apply for a scholarship
- ▶ **Remember, every dollar counts!**

Public Institutions: Non-Resident Scholarships

- ▶ Some state universities offer scholarships for non-residents that can bring the cost of attendance (COA) down
- ▶ e.g.
 - ▶ [University of South Carolina](#)
 - ▶ [Miami University](#)
 - ▶ [University of Alabama](#)
 - ▶ [Florida State University](#)
 - ▶ [Louisiana State University](#)
 - ▶ [Colorado School of Mines](#)

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

- ▶ Most state education agencies have at least one grant or scholarship available to residents
- ▶ Some states have programs that allow residents to attend university in another state, without having to pay out-of-state tuition
- ▶ Click on your state [here](#) for more information

Scholarships.com & Scholarship America

- ▶ Scholarships.com keeps students and parents informed about the latest free college scholarships, grants, and financial aid information
- ▶ Click [here](#) to create an account
- ▶ Click [here](#) browse scholarships available through Scholarship America

The Foundation of the Carolinas

- ▶ Each scholarship has its own selection criteria and requirements
- ▶ Most Foundation For The Carolinas' Scholarship Funds use the online application
- ▶ Many are needs-based
- ▶ Scholarship funds may award grant to qualified students attending colleges and Important dates:
 - ▶ EARLY DECEMBER: New applications are available on our Online Scholarships System.
 - ▶ EARLY MARCH: Deadline to submit most applications to FFTC. Be sure to check specific scholarship deadlines
- ▶ Click to [here](#) to search and apply

North Carolina Community Foundation

- ▶ Applications accepted starting in February
- ▶ Check back often for newly added opportunities
- ▶ Search for scholarships by county by clicking [here](#)

Cappex & Fastweb

▶ Click [here](#) to sign up and find scholarship opportunities available through Cappex

▶ Click [here](#) sign up and find scholarship opportunities available through Fastweb

Unigo & SmartScholar

- ▶ Sign up [here](#) use the scholarship match feature
- ▶ Browse by category
 - ▶ e.g. women, minority, major, merit, no essay
- ▶ Click [here](#) to view scholarship opportunities by category
 - ▶ e.g. engineering, biology, math, disability, religion
- ▶ Click [here](#) to view scholarship opportunities in Mecklenburg County, NC

Others Worth Checking Out

- ▶ [Jewish Educational Loan Fund](#)
- ▶ [Sallie Mae](#)
- ▶ [Hispanicfund.org](#)
- ▶ [Scholly](#)
- ▶ [GoodCall](#)

Final Reminders

- ▶ If you want to access scholarships, you must:
 - ▶ Read directions carefully
 - ▶ Note deadlines
 - ▶ Remain positive when faced with rejection
 - ▶ **NEVER** pay to apply for a scholarship
- ▶ These sites want your data: you will get **A LOT** of email
 - ▶ Consider setting up an email address just for scholarships

Good Luck!

- ▶ Do you know of other resources?
 - ▶ Let me know
- ▶ Do you have a scholarship success story to inspire others?
 - ▶ Let me know
- ▶ Questions or comments?
 - ▶ Let me know

kathy@fineeducationalsolutions