

# FINDING MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Most student financial aid comes from federal government programs. Beware of scams and services that will search for financial aid for you for a fee. Applying for student aid should be FREE. Some people, however, still feel the need to hire an advisor for assistance. If you decide to hire one, be aware that about 70 percent of the aid students receive can be accessed through FAFSA.

## Important Terms

- **Scholarship**
  - Financial aid awarded without regard to need
  - Usually based on performance, ability, skill, or talent
  - No repayment required
  - Check the NGHS Senior Scholarship Bulletins (located in the Counseling Office or at [Scholarship Bulletin](#)), scholarship websites ([click here for links to resources](#)) and the colleges you are applying to.
- **Grant**
  - Financial Aid awarded based on need
  - No repayment required
- **Loan**
  - Money borrowed to help the student pay college costs
  - Money must be repaid, although some programs have low interest rates and others have provisions for repayment by working in certain jobs
- **Work Study**
  - Getting a job on campus to help pay expenses; example is Residence Advisor
  - Getting a job off campus to defray expenses
- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**
  - All students applying for need-based financial aid must complete the FAFSA
  - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- **CSS Profile** - Supplemental financial aid form required by some private colleges

## How do you apply for federal student aid?

- **Complete the [FAFSA](#)**
  - Required for all students applying for any governmental sponsored financial aid, including Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, and Work-Study
  - Required for the [Hope/Zell Miller Scholarship](#)
  - Detailed instructions regarding the completion of the FAFSA are available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - Complete on or after October 1<sup>st</sup> of your senior year
- **Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)** you will receive after completing the FAFSA
- **Contact the school(s) you might attend**
  - Make sure the financial aid office at each school has all the information needed
  - If eligible for aid, each school will send you an award letter upon admission stating the amount and types of aid the school will offer you