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## Financial Aid Facts

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Financial Aid is a general term encompassing different sources of money to help families pay for college. It includes grants, scholarships, work study programs and loans. As you apply to each college, be aware of financial aid deadlines for each school.

### Types of Financial Aid:

**Grants** are free money that you receive from the federal government (Pell Grant), state government (Cal Grant) or from the college directly. Students may qualify for grants due to their financial or academic status. Grants do not need to be repaid.

**Scholarships** are also free money that you receive from colleges or outside agencies. Most students earn scholarships because they have done something special – they have great grades, they have volunteered, they are talented in some way, they want to pursue a certain care, etc. Scholarships can be earned directly from colleges or by applying to them on your own. Scholarship lists are sent out monthly via ParentSquare, are posted in the College & Career Center and in the GoogleClassroom. There are also many online scholarship search sites, but keep in mind that you should never have to pay a company or individual for scholarship information.

**College Work Study** programs are jobs offered by colleges that provide part-time employment while you are enrolled in school. Being awarded work study does not guarantee employment, but students must indicate they are interested in work study when submitting the FAFSA to be considered.

**Loans** are money that must be repaid. Loans are available from the federal government, private institutions or colleges.

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**Financial Aid Forms** – Filling out the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the first step in the financial aid process. **The FAFSA open on October 1<sup>st</sup> each year.** Funds are available on a first-come-first-served basis, so apply early. The deadline to submit the FAFSA for most schools is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information and to apply:

[FAFSA Application](#)

**Monthly Scholarship List:** [Fall 2020 Scholarship List](#)

### **Scholarship Search Sites:**

[raise.me](#)

[unigo.com](#)

[dosomething.org](#)

[scholarships.com](#)

[fastweb.com](#)

[studentscholarships.org](#)

[scholarships4students.com](#)