



**guide to**  
|||||  
applying  
|||||  
***& paying***  
|||||  
FOR COLLEGE

Scholarship Fund of Alexandria



# The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's Guide to Applying & Paying for College for the Class of 2020



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**Margaret Feldman | Director of College Advising | Scholarship Fund of Alexandria**

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# Scholarship Fund of Alexandria



## What is the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria?

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (SFA) is a nonprofit organization housed in rooms A121, A117 & A115 of TC Williams.

- The Scholarship Fund’s College Advisers offer **college, career, and financial aid advising** to ACPS students – 6th through 12th grade.
- We raise money and give need-based and non-need-based **scholarships that are just for TC seniors**.
  - Need-based scholarships are at least \$3,000 per year – with the chance to renew for all four years of college!
  - About 50% of applicants receive a scholarship each year (much better than the odds for other scholarships), so if you only apply for one scholarship this year, make sure it’s SFA!
  - Our application opens up November 1st and is **due February 3rd**. Go to [www.AlexScholarshipFund.org](http://www.AlexScholarshipFund.org) to begin filling out your application!

## Meet the Scholarship Fund’s College Advisers

### DARIEN WATERS

College Adviser  
Grades 9 – 10



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Our College Advisers are available before, during, and after school to help you come up with a plan for life after high school. Stop by the Scholarship Fund office to speak with us anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m Monday through Friday. We can help you:

- Find a good college fit
- Apply for scholarships and financial aid
- Write college and scholarship essays
- Prepare for the SAT/ACT
- Build a résumé
- Understand financial aid options for undocumented students
- Complete the Scholarship Fund Application



Sign up for SFA’s Monthly Scholarship Email

[bit.ly/SFAemail](https://bit.ly/SFAemail)

Follow SFA’s College Advisers on Twitter and Instagram

[@TC2College](https://www.instagram.com/TC2College)

# Senior Checklist for College Admissions



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## STAY ON TRACK:

- Ensure you have registered for challenging courses (AP and DE) in which you feel you can be successful senior year.** The #1 thing colleges will look for in your application is that you pushed yourself to take difficult courses in high school
  - Colleges want to see you on an upward trajectory from junior to senior year, so they will place a lot of weight on the courses you choose to take as a senior
  - Colleges would rather see a “B” in an AP or DE course than an “A” in an Honors or standard level course
  - Colleges want to see 4 years of English, math, science, history as well as *at least* three consecutive years of the same world language
- Good grades = money for college!** Typically, the more selective the college is (or the better your grades have to be in order to get accepted), the more scholarships & financial aid the school gives away. See p. 14 for a list of the colleges across the country with the best financial aid and **keep your grades up**
  - Although the GPA colleges judge you by will only include 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade courses, colleges will see the letter grades you’re receiving in your senior year courses

## CHOOSE YOUR COLLEGES WISELY:

- Meet with the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (SFA, Room A-115 & A-121), College & Career Center (CCC, Room A-114), or your counselor to **narrow down a list of 5-8 colleges** that fit your interests, your academic qualifications, and that will be affordable for your family
  - Take your career and personality assessments in Naviance, research careers at [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh) and narrow down a **list of college majors** that will prepare you for the career of your choice. Check to make sure those majors are available at each of the colleges you’re considering
  - Reference the Average GPA and Test Scores chart for Virginia Colleges on p. 7-8, take a look at the scattergrams in Naviance, and make a free account with [www.princetonreview.com/college-search](http://www.princetonreview.com/college-search) to ensure you’ve selected a **mix of safety, match, and reach schools** academically
- Use the **Net Price Calculator** at <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price> to *find out how much each college will cost for you before you apply and to make sure you’re applying to schools your family can afford*. The Calculator takes into account your grades and your family’s financial information to estimate what your personalized cost of attendance will be after scholarships and financial aid. See p. 13 for more information on planning to pay for college
  - If you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA due to citizenship status (undocumented, DACA, Diplomat Visa, Student Visa, etc.) you will have a very different process of applying for college and financial aid. See p. 20-23 for more information
- Be sure to apply for **NOVA’s Pathway to Baccalaureate** program. Whether NOVA is your first choice or not, every senior should apply to NOVA because it is an excellent financial option. Most students receiving free or reduced lunch at TC can attend NOVA for free for two years and then transfer to a 4 year college to complete the last two years of their bachelor’s degree
  - Turn in your Pathway to Baccalaureate application to your counselor by early November
- If possible, try to **visit the colleges** you’ve chosen and make sure you can picture yourself on that college campus for the next four years. Some colleges will pay to fly you out to their campus for a visit. Check out this list of free college fly-in programs: <http://bit.ly/2JjM3IQ>
  - If you can’t visit a college in person, attend representative visits in CCC and check out [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)

## COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATIONS:

- Take a look at the admissions and financial aid websites for each college you choose. Take note of requirements and deadlines and **make a calendar for senior year**
  - Consider whether or not you would be a good candidate to apply early (see p. 9 for more information)
  - Keep in mind that some colleges require you to have your application in by November 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for merit scholarships
- Register for the **SAT or ACT** and **request that your scores be sent to the colleges you expect to apply to** (you receive unlimited score sends for SAT and 20 free score sends for ACT if you registered with a fee waiver or 4 free score sends for each if you paid with credit card). *You can take both tests for FREE twice if you qualify for free/reduced lunch.* (obtain fee waivers from Mrs. Hawn in A-119)
  - Check out a free practice book from CCC and get free, personalized online prep for the SAT with [khanacademy.org/sat](http://khanacademy.org/sat) and for the ACT with [academy.act.org](http://academy.act.org)
  - Once you receive your scores, decide whether the SAT or ACT is right for you, sign up to take the test a second time, and continue practicing so you can improve your score

SAT TEST DATES 2019-20 <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>	REGISTRATION DEADLINES
October 5	September 6
<i>October 9 (in school)</i>	N/A
November 2	October 3
December 7	November 8

ACT TEST DATES 2019-20 <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>	REGISTRATION DEADLINES
September 14	August 16
October 26	September 20
December 14	November 8

- Also be sure to **register for SAT Subject Tests** (also called SAT IIs) if recommended by your colleges. Subject Tests are offered in a variety of subjects such as Biology, US History, world languages etc. They are 1 hour tests offered on the same Saturdays at the traditional SAT. You may take up to 3 Subject Tests on one Saturday morning, but you cannot take both the Subject Tests and the traditional SAT on the same Saturday. *You can take the Subject Tests for FREE if you qualify for free/reduced lunch* (obtain fee waivers in A-119)
- If English is not your first language (and if recommended by your colleges), register to take the **TOEFL** (obtain fee reduction form from your counselor)
- Ask two teachers to write you **letters of recommendation** for college. Then submit recommendation requests through Naviance
- Write several drafts of your **college essays** (see tips on p. 10-11). Help is available from SFA ([margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us)) and CCC ([stacy.morris@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:stacy.morris@acps.k12.va.us))
- Complete/update your **résumé**. A résumé is required for many college and scholarship applications. See Ms. Feldman in SFA for help and for an electronic version of résumé template on p. 10

## APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID:

- Complete the **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid – [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov))** starting October 1st. Get one-on-one assistance from SFA or attend one of SFA's FAFSA Completion Workshops (4-7:30pm on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>)
  - If required by your college, complete the **CSS Profile** at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>. See list of colleges that require CSS Profile on p. 15. Assistance available from SFA
- Work on your **Scholarship Fund of Alexandria application**. It can be submitted any time between November 1 and February 3<sup>rd</sup> but you can prepare the application in the fall at [alexscholarshipfund.org](http://alexscholarshipfund.org)
  - One out of two applicants receives a scholarship! Need based scholarship award are at least \$3,000 per year – with the chance to renew for all four years of college. If there is only one scholarship application you submit, be sure it is this one!
- Sign up for SFA's **monthly scholarship email list** at <http://bit.ly/SFAemail> & follow us on Instagram and Twitter [@TC2College](https://twitter.com/TC2College) to find out about additional scholarship opportunities
- Make sure to regularly check your email, application portal, and mailbox for communication from colleges about anything they need from you
  - Your FAFSA may be selected for a process called **verification**, meaning you will be asked for proof of the financial information you included in your FAFSA. If you are selected for verification, your college will request that you submit additional documents to their office. See p. 16-17 for more information on verification
  - Since financial aid dollars are awarded first come, first served, **any delays in submitting verification paperwork to a college can cause you to miss out on possible aid**. Complete all financial aid paperwork ASAP
  - You will not receive a financial aid award letter from a college until you have completed all of these steps. You need a financial aid award letter in order to make an informed decision on May 1<sup>st</sup> about which college to attend

## EVALUATE YOUR OPTIONS:

- Meet with SFA or CCC to **compare financial aid awards**, interpret different types of grants/loans, and decide on the best offer for you and your family. Financial aid award comparison chart on p. 18
- Research graduation rates, expected salary of graduates, and average student loan debt** for each college you're considering and be sure you're making a wise financial investment [collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov)
- If you didn't get admitted to any colleges you'd be excited about attending, or if you didn't receive sufficient financial aid from the college of your choice, **don't forget that starting with NOVA is always an option!** Even if you weren't accepted to the NOVA Pathway Program, you can still spend your first two years at NOVA and then transfer to a 4 year college to complete the last two years of your bachelor's degree
  - What matters is where you end up – not where you start! You can still graduate in 4 years and receive a diploma from the school of your dreams, even if you start at NOVA! See Ms. Feldman in SFA for help creating a plan to achieve your long-term personal, academic, career, and financial goals
- Notify each college** with your decision (accept, decline) by May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Accept the Financial Aid Award from the school of your choice! Send in your housing deposit, make sure to register for orientation, and keep up with any other important deadlines!

## PREPARE FOR THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE:

- If you have any questions over the summer** – from registering for college courses to the social transition to college – please stop by and see Ms. Feldman in A-115. She will be available anytime between 9am and 3:30pm all summer long

# Average GPA & SAT/ACT Scores for VA Colleges



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Please note that these test scores and GPAs are provided to show how your scores compare to those of students who were accepted at Virginia colleges. Some students had lower scores and GPAs, while other students had higher scores and GPAs.

Aggregate data from Virginia Department of Education, U.S. Department of Education, and Princeton Review

## GPA 3.24 and below

College	SAT 25 <sup>th</sup> -75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	ACT 25 <sup>th</sup> -75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Average GPA	6 Year Graduation Rate	Average Salary of Graduates
Averett University*	830-1020	17-22	3.15	34%	\$41,500
Bluefield College*	890-1070	16-23	3.11	44%	\$40,300
Ferrum College*	850-1070	15-22	2.80	28%	\$36,300
Marymount University*	930-1120	19-24	3.12	50%	\$52,300
Norfolk State University	840-1040	17-21	2.90	33%	\$33,200
Radford University	950-1120	17-23	3.23	59%	\$42,300
Virginia State University	810-970	16-20	2.83	45%	\$33,300
Virginia Union University*	810-950	14-19	2.50	30%	\$31,400

## GPA 3.25 – 3.49

Bridgewater College*	990-1150	18-25	3.45	57%	\$41,100
Hampden-Sydney College*	1030-1300	20-28.5	3.44	65%	\$48,700
Hampton University*	980-1110	20-24	3.49	66%	\$41,700
Jefferson College of Health Sciences*	940-1140	19-25	3.33	54%	\$52,500
Liberty University*	1040-1220	21-28	3.49	49%	\$35,200
Longwood University	970-1130	19-24	3.37	66%	\$39,900
Lynchburg College*	1000-1170	19-24	3.42	56%	\$42,100
Old Dominion University	990-1180	19-25	3.28	52%	\$42,600
Randolph College*	960-1220	19-25	3.40	54%	\$40,900
Southern Virginia University*	920-1190	19-26	3.38	31%	\$34,900
Sweet Briar College*	1000-1140	20-28	3.31	65%	\$36,800
University of Virginia's College at Wise	950-1120	17-23	3.49	44%	\$37,300
Virginia Wesleyan University*	950-1150	19-25	3.25	48%	\$39,300

\*See key on the following page.

## GPA 3.5 – 3.74

Eastern Mennonite University*	990-1160	20-28	3.54	61%	\$38,600
Emory and Henry College*	940-1150	19-26	3.58	51%	\$38,300
George Mason University	1110-1280	24-30	3.67	68%	\$58,100
James Madison University	1110-1250	23-28	3.73	83%	\$53,800
Mary Baldwin University*	960-1120	19-26	3.61	40%	\$36,200
Randolph-Macon College*	1060-1220	21-27	3.73	60%	\$46,200
Regent University*	950-1180	20-27	3.50	49%	\$41,200
Roanoke College*	1050-1210	22-27	3.57	65%	\$43,000
Shenandoah University*	1010-1190	20-26	3.57	55%	\$41,400
University of Mary Washington	1090-1240	22-27	3.61	72%	\$50,500
Virginia Commonwealth University	1040-1220	21-28	3.62	61%	\$42,200
Virginia Military Institute	1110-1280	23-28	3.68	73%	\$63,200

## GPA 3.75 and above

Christopher Newport University	1140-1290	23-29	3.78	69%	\$43,600
College of William and Mary	1300-1480	29-33	4.24	90%	\$55,400
Hollins University*	1110-1260	23-28	3.81	60%	\$32,200
University of Richmond*	1290-1470	29-32	Not Available	86%	\$60,700
University of Virginia	1310-1480	29-33	4.28	94%	\$60,700
Virginia Tech	1140-1320	25-31	3.99	83%	\$60,500
Washington and Lee University*	1350-1500	31-33	Not Available	89%	\$72,300

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Standard Classes	Honors Classes	AP or DE Classes
93-100	A	4	4.5	5
90-92	A-	3.7	4.2	4.7
87-89	B+	3.3	3.8	4.3
83-86	B	3	3.5	4
80-82	B-	2.7	3.2	3.7
77-79	C+	2.3	2.8	3.3
73-76	C	2	2.5	3
70-72	C-	1.7	1.7	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3	1.3	1.3
60-66	D	1	1	1

6 Year Graduation Rate Below 50%

6 Year Graduation Rate Between 50-60%

6 Year Graduation Rate Above 60%

\* Indicates Private College or University



# Is Applying Early Right for You?



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## What factors should you take into consideration when deciding whether to apply regular decision or early?

Students should only apply early if they are happy with their college essays and grades from AP/DE courses taken prior to senior year. It is very important not to rush an early application. However, if a student feels ready to go with their applications in the fall, there can be some benefits to considering Early Action/Early Decision.

### Early Action/Early Decision

Students who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying early. Ivy Leagues and many highly selective colleges accept almost 50% of their freshman class through Early Action/Early Decision. Applications are typically due in October or November of senior year.

- **Early Action (EA):** Accepted students are not required to attend EA college.
- **Early Decision (ED):** Accepted students are required to attend ED college and withdraw other college applications.
  - Because ED is binding, it is important that students with financial need apply ONLY to colleges that guarantee to meet 100% of the student's financial need (please see the list of colleges that guarantee to meet 100% of financial need on p. 14).
  - Only families that can afford to pay the full cost of college out of pocket should apply ED to colleges that are not included on this list.

### QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship

Students with high financial need (household income of \$65,000 per year or less) who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to QuestBridge, a 4-year full-ride scholarship to highly selective partner colleges. Applications are due in September 26th senior year: [questbridge.org/high-school-students/national-college-match](http://questbridge.org/high-school-students/national-college-match)

- Accepted students are required to attend the QuestBridge partner college to which they are matched. Partner colleges for Questbridge are below:

Amherst College	Davidson College	Pomona College	Univ of Southern CA
Bowdoin College	Duke University	Princeton University	University of Virginia
Brown University	Emory University	Rice University	Vanderbilt
CA Institute of Tech	Grinnell College	Scripps College	Vassar College
Carleton College	Hamilton College	Stanford University	Washington & Lee
Claremont McKenna	Haverford College	Swarthmore College	Washington U St. Louis
Colby College	Macalester College	Tufts University	Wellesley College
Colorado College	MIT	University of Chicago	Wesleyan University
Columbia	Northwestern Univ	Notre Dame	Williams College
Dartmouth	Oberlin College	Univ of Pennsylvania	Yale University

### Gates Scholarship

Minority students with high financial need (Pell Grant-eligible – typically corresponds with free/reduced lunch eligibility) who rank in the top 10% of the class and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to Gates, a 4-year full-ride scholarship to a college of the student's choice. Applications are due in September 15<sup>th</sup> of senior year: [thegatesscholarship.org](http://thegatesscholarship.org)

### Posse Scholarship

Students with strong leadership experience who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to Posse, a 4-year full-tuition scholarship to highly selective partner colleges. Students must be nominated in the spring of junior year in order to apply, and the application process is interview based. **To request nomination, rising seniors must submit this Google form (<http://bit.ly/Posse1920>) by May 26<sup>th</sup> of junior year: [possefoundation.org](http://possefoundation.org)**

- Accepted students are required to attend the Posse partner college to which they are matched. Partner colleges for Posse DC are:

Bucknell University	Lafayette College	Sewanee	University of Rochester	University of Wisconsin-Madison
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# Admission Essays



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## Essay writing tips:

- Should NOT be a 5 paragraph essay with an introduction and conclusion
  - You are working with a limited word count, so dive right into the meat of your essay
  - Use a hook to grab the reader in your first few sentences
- Should be very personal
  - If you're talking about your hero, make sure that you're talking about how they've impacted YOU rather than just telling their story
  - Let the reader really get to know your background and your passions – there isn't a right topic for your essay
    - You can write about a family vacation, your childhood dollhouse, your favorite piece of art, etc.
    - Don't butter up the college by writing your essay about their school colors
- Show NOT tell
  - Showing: Appeal to the senses – eyes, ears, mouth, nose, or skin
  - Telling: General statements that tell the reader what to experience rather than making them feel for themselves
- Specificity is key
  - Avoid making general statements. Instead, give interesting details that describe specific people, places, and things
- Do NOT treat your essay like a résumé
  - There's no need to mention extracurriculars or the AP courses you've taken – the admissions office will read those things elsewhere in your application
- Make yourself look good in comparison to other applicants
  - If an essay is optional, do it. If an essay says 400-600 words, make sure your essay is closer to 600 words than 400. Otherwise, you will immediately appear to have put less effort into your application than the person who submitted the optional essay and used the full word count
- Try a free-write to get warmed up (adapted from NACAC):
  - The best day of my life was...
  - The worst day of my life was...
  - The most important thing about me is ...
  - If I could change one thing about my life, it would be...
  - If my life were a movie, the pivotal scene would occur when ....
  - People say we learn from mistakes. I really messed up when ...
  - I remember this one time I could NOT keep my mouth shut! I ...
  - When we're kids, we learn right from wrong. One wrong people seemed not to have learned yet is ...
  - I'm an inventor. I'm going to invent...
  - If I ruled the world, I would change ...
  - I got my first taste of adulthood when ....
  - People think I'm lying when I tell them I spend so much time ....

## Free assistance is available to help you brainstorm and edit your college essays:

- Scholarship Fund of Alexandria:
  - Ms. Feldman – Room A-115 (available 8am – 4:30pm during school year and 9am – 3:30pm all summer)
  - [margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us)
- College & Career Center:
  - Ms. Morris – Room A-114 (available 8am – 4pm during school year)
  - [stacy.morris@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:stacy.morris@acps.k12.va.us)

## If you are completing the Common App, you will respond to one of the seven prompts below:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

## Most colleges have supplement essays in addition to the Common App prompt (and not every college uses the Common App)

- Colleges can select their own supplement prompt(s), for example:
  - What work of art, music, science, mathematics, or literature has surprised, unsettled, or challenged you, and in what way? (UVA)
  - At George Washington University, our students frequently interact with policymakers and world leaders. These experiences and those of our alumni can shape the future of global affairs. If you had the power to change the course of history in your community or the world, what would you do and why? (GW)
  - Describe a situation where you were involved or witness to an act of discrimination. How, or did, you respond? Do you wish you would have responded differently? Did this situation cause any change to happen based on this event and did you have a role in that change? What did you learn from this experience? (VT)
- It's a good idea to see if some of your colleges have similar prompts before you get started writing. That way you can try to reuse an essay for more than one school
- A great essay will go through rounds of edits before it is truly complete. Get started with your essays now so that you can leave time for feedback & revisions
- *Be sure to give at least 5 business days for someone to review your essay!*

# Sample Résumé Template



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## MARGARET FELDMAN

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### EDUCATION

---

**T.C. Williams High School, (GPA 3.5)** 2011 – 2015  
*AP Courses*  
▪ Biology, English, European History  
*Dual Enrollment Courses*  
▪ American History  
*Honors Courses*  
▪ Chemistry, Physics

### HONORS AND AWARDS

---

**List Any Academic, Athletic, Character, etc. Honors and Awards Here** 2013  
▪ Description of honor or award

**Such as National Honor Society, Most Improved Player, Honor Roll, etc.** 2012  
▪ Description of honor or award

### WORK EXPERIENCE

---

**Name of Company, Location** July 2014 – Present  
*Title of Position at Company*  
▪ Description of the work you did

**Name of Second Company, Location** July 2012  
*Title of Position at Company*  
▪ Description of the work you did

### ACTIVITIES

---

**Name of Organization where you Volunteered** 2012 – Present  
▪ Description of Service

**Name of Sport you Played** 2009 – Present  
▪ Describe any relevant athletic awards or leadership positions, if applicable

**Title of Position on Student Government** 2011 – 2013  
▪ Description of position and responsibilities

**Name of Another Organization/Club you're involved with outside of school** 2006 – 2012  
▪ Description of involvement

### SKILLS

---

List any skills or proficiencies here (such as Microsoft Office)

List any skills or proficiencies here (such as Adobe Creative Suite)

List any skills or proficiencies here (such as speaking Spanish, Amharic, etc.)

# Paying for College



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## 1. How much does college cost?

The “**sticker price**” (or the listed price of a college before financial aid is taken into account) ranges from about \$6,000 to \$60,000 per year. Costs include more than just tuition. The Cost of Attendance (COA) is also room (where you live), board (what you eat), books, fees, transportation and personal expenses.

## 2. My family can't pay all that. Can we get help?

Yes, you can apply for financial aid! There are three types of aid – grants, work-study, and loans. **Grants** (AKA, scholarships) are free money which you do not have to pay back. **Work-study** is a campus job that helps pay your college costs. **Loans** must be repaid with interest. *Your goal is to get as much aid as possible in the form of grants/scholarships!*

## 3. How do you apply for financial aid?

**FAFSA** is an acronym that stands for **F**ree **A**pplication for **F**ederal **S**tudent **A**id. It is a free, 30-minute application to qualify for money for college from the federal and state governments. However, the federal and state governments are not the only sources of financial aid. There is also **institutional aid** (from the college itself) and **private scholarships** (such as the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria). Many colleges and private scholarships also require the FAFSA as part of their application for aid.

Federal & State Aid	Institutional Aid	Private Scholarships
<p><i>FAFSA</i> (Apply October 1)</p> <p><b>Application requires:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income information from student/parent</li> </ul> <p><b>Types of aid given:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarships/grants</li> <li>Work-study</li> <li>Loans</li> </ul>	<p><i>FAFSA and/or CSS Profile</i> (Apply October 1)</p> <p><b>Applications require:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income information from student/parent</li> </ul> <p><b>Types of aid given:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarships/grants</li> </ul>	<p><i>Individual application for each private scholarship (year round)</i></p> <p><b>Applications vary, but may require:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transcript</li> <li>Essays</li> <li>Résumé</li> <li>Recommendations</li> <li>SAT/ACT scores</li> <li>Income information from student/parent (FAFSA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Types of aid given:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarships/grants</li> </ul>

Ms. Feldman sends out a monthly email with upcoming private scholarship deadlines. Sign up here: [bit.ly/SFAemail](http://bit.ly/SFAemail)

## 4. How can I estimate how much financial aid I'll receive and how much each college will cost for me?

Use the **Net Price Calculator** to get a personalized estimate of how much each college will cost for you. Colleges take into account your family size, income, and grades to determine your individual “**net price**”. The Net Price Calculator factors in the financial aid you may receive from the FAFSA as well as any institutional aid you may qualify for. *It does not account for private scholarships.*

Use this tool as you choose the colleges to which you will apply. You'll find that each college will award you a different amount of financial aid, and this tool will give you the information you need to make sure that the schools on your list will be affordable.

**Find out how much aid you will get from each college BEFORE YOU APPLY!**  
Go to: [collegecost.ed.gov/net-price](http://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price)

As a general rule of thumb, **the more selective a college is (or the better your grades have to be in order to get accepted), the more money the school gives away in financial aid (and the cheaper it will be for you).** **Good Grades = Money!**

- Private colleges** tend to have the highest sticker prices, but be sure to use the Net Price Calculator before ruling them out. For example, the University of Richmond is free for families who make <\$60,000 a year.
- Public out-of-state colleges** tend to have the highest “net price” (after financial aid). Apply to some in-state publics!
- Community colleges** have the lowest sticker prices (NOVA = <\$6,000 per year). If you qualify for Free or Reduced-price lunch, you most likely also qualify for the Pell Grant (through the FAFSA). This covers the whole cost of NOVA, so you can attend the first 2 years of a 4 year bachelor's degree FOR FREE!

# Colleges that Meet 100% of Financial Need



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*The following colleges and universities guarantee to meet the full demonstrated financial need of every FAFSA-eligible student. Visit each school's Net Price Calculator to calculate your personalized net price [collegecost.ed.gov/net-price](http://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price)*

Amherst College (MA)	Mount Holyoke College (MA)
Barnard College (NY)	Northwestern University (IL)
Bates College (ME)	Oberlin College (OH)
Berea College (KY)	Occidental College (CA)
Boston College (MA)	Pitzer College (CA)
Boston University (MA)	Pomona College (CA)
Bowdoin College (ME)	Princeton University (NJ)
Brown University (RI)	Reed College (OR)
Bryn Mawr College (PA)	Rice University (TX)
California Institute of Technology (CA)	Scripps College (CA)
Carleton College (MN)	Skidmore College (NY)
Claremont McKenna College (CA)	Smith College (MA)
Colby College (ME)	St. Olaf College (MN)
Colgate University (NY)	Stanford University (CA)
College of the Holy Cross (MA)	Swarthmore College (PA)
Colorado College (CO)	Thomas Aquinas College (CA)
Columbia University (NY)	Trinity College (CT)
Connecticut College (CT)	Tufts University (MA)
Cornell University (NY)	Union College (NY)
Dartmouth College (NH)	University of Chicago (IL)
Davidson College (NC)	University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (NC)
Duke University (NC)	University of Notre Dame (IN)
Emory University (GA)	University of Pennsylvania
Franklin & Marshall College (PA)	University of Richmond (VA)
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering (MA)	University of Rochester - except Eastman (NY)
Georgetown University (DC)	University of Southern California (CA)
Grinnell College (IA)	University of Virginia (VA)
Hamilton College (NY)	Vanderbilt University (TN)
Harvard University (MA)	Vassar College (NY)
Harvey Mudd College (CA)	Wake Forest University (NC)
Haverford College (PA)	Washington and Lee University (VA)
Johns Hopkins University (MD)	Washington University in St. Louis (MO)
Kenyon College (OH)	Wellesley College (MA)
Lafayette College (PA)	Wesleyan University (CT)
Macalester College (MN)	Williams College (MA)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MA)	Yale University (CT)
Middlebury College (VT)	

# Colleges Requiring the CSS Profile



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The following college and universities use the CSS PROFILE as part of their financial aid process.

Please see College Board's website for the most up-to-date list of participating schools: <http://bit.ly/CSScolleges>

Alabama A&M University	Duke University	Middlebury College	St. Olaf College
American University	Elon University	Montessori Inst of N Texas	Stanford University
Amherst College	Emerson College	Mount Holyoke College	Stetson University
Babson College	Emory University	Muhlenberg College	Stevens Institute Technology
Bard College	Fairfield University	New College Franklin	Stonehill College
Barnard College	Fordham University	New Saint Andrews College	Swarthmore College
Bates College	Franklin and Marshall College	New York University	Syracuse University
Baylor University	Furman University	Northeastern University	Texas Christian University
Bennington College	George Washington University	Northland College	The Minerva Schools at KGI
Bentley University	Georgetown University	Northwestern College	Thomas College
Berklee College of Music	Georgia Institute of Tech	Northwestern University	Trinity College (CT)
Berry College	Gestalt Institute of Cleveland	Norwich University	Trinity University
Birmingham-South College	Gettysburg College	Oberlin College	Tufts University
Boston College	Grinnell College	Occidental College	Tulane University
Boston University	Gustavus Adolphus College	Olivet College	Union College (NY)
Bowdoin College	Hamilton College (NY)	Oregon State University	Univ of CA: San Francisco
Boyce College	Hampshire College	Otis College of Art & Design	Univ of Chicago
Brandeis University	Harvard College	Patrick Henry College	Univ of Denver
Brown University	Harvey Mudd College	Pitzer College	Univ of Miami
Bryn Mawr College	Haverford College	Pomona College	Univ of Michigan
Bucknell University	Hillsdale College	Principia College	Univ of N Carolina Chapel Hill
California Institute of Tech	Hobart & William Smith Coll	Providence College	Univ of Notre Dame
Carleton College	Illinois Wesleyan University	Queens Univ at Kingston	Univ of Pennsylvania
Carnegie Mellon University	Ithaca College	Reed College	Univ of Richmond
Case Western Reserve Univ	Jacksonville University	Reformation Bible College	Univ of Rochester
Catholic Univ of America	Johns Hopkins University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst	Univ of San Francisco
Claremont McKenna College	Juilliard School	Rhode Island Schl of Design	Univ of Southern CA (USC)
Clark University	Kamehameha Schools	Rhodes College	Univ of Virginia
Cleveland Institute of Music	Kenyon College	Rice University	Vanderbilt University
Colby College	Kutztown University	Ringling Col of Art & Design	Vassar College
Colgate University	Lafayette College	Sacred Heart University	Vermont Law School
College of the Holy Cross	Lake Forest College	Saint Louis University	Villanova University
College of William and Mary	Lawrence University	Santa Clara University	Wake Forest University
College of Wooster	Lehigh University	Scripps College	Wartburg College
Colorado College	Lewis & Clark College	Sewanee	Washington & Lee University
Columbia U	Loyola University Maryland	Siena College	Washington Uniy: St. Louis
Connecticut College	Macalester College	Skidmore College	Wellesley College
Cornell University	Manhattan School of Music	Smith College	Wesleyan University
Cottey College	Marian University	Southern Baptist Theo Sem	Wheaton College (MA)
Dartmouth College	Marietta College	Southern Methodist University	Whitman College
Davidson College	Marist College	Spring Hill College	Whitworth University
Denison University	Marshall B. Ketchum University	St. Anselm College	William Jewell College
DePauw University	Massachusetts Inst of Tech	St. Edwards University	Williams College
Dickinson College	McGill University	St. Johns College (MD)	Worcester Polytechnic Inst
Drexel University		St. Johns College (NM)	Yale University

## All seniors should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) when it opens up October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to fill it out! Free, confidential assistance is available during the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's FAFSA Completion Workshops or by individual appointment.

## After you submit your FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), a summary of what you submitted.

- You will receive an email with instructions on how to access your SAR at [www.fafsa.gov](https://www.fafsa.gov) after 3-5 days.
- Carefully read all comments on your SAR and review your results for accuracy.
  - Your SAR should display your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
    - **EFC = Expected Family Contribution.** The Department of Education uses the financial information you provided in the FAFSA to determine how much money they expect your family to contribute toward your education each year. That amount of money is called the EFC.
    - This number affects what federal and state financial aid you will receive.
  - If your application was incomplete, the SAR may not include an EFC, but will display comments that identify any issues you need to resolve, such as missing signatures or updating information.

## If corrections or updates are needed:

- Make corrections to your electronic SAR at [www.fafsa.gov](https://www.fafsa.gov).
  - Click "Make a Correction" and enter your FSA ID,
  - Add or update any information required to complete your FAFSA,
  - And make sure to resubmit your FAFSA to resend your SAR to each school on your list.

## If your SAR does not request additional information:

- Once your FAFSA processes, the colleges you listed on your FAFSA will have access to your information electronically.
  - If you were ineligible to use the **IRS Data Retrieval Tool**, your college may require that you submit a copy of your (and your parents') IRS Tax Return Transcript. You can request a transcript from the IRS at: [www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript](https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript)
  - Your FAFSA may be selected for a process called **verification**, meaning you will be asked for proof of the financial information you included in your FAFSA. If you are selected for verification, your college will request that you submit additional documents to their office.
  - Be sure to regularly check your email, application portal, and mailbox for communication from colleges.
- Your colleges will review your FAFSA to determine the amount of federal and state grants, loans, work-study, and any available school-based aid for which you may be eligible.
  - **Check with your colleges to see if any additional forms are required** for state and school-based aid – such as the CSS Profile. Make sure to do your research and know the exact deadline for each form
  - Not submitting additional required forms can prevent you from receiving financial aid from the college!
- After you have been accepted, and once you have completed all financial aid paperwork, your colleges will send you a **financial aid award letter** that details the financial aid you are eligible to receive.
- Once you receive your award letters, stop by and chat with Ms. Feldman about interpreting the different types of grants/loans. We would be more than happy to help you compare awards and decide on the best offer for you and your family.

Since financial aid dollars are often awarded first come, first served, any delays in submitting verification paperwork to a college can CAUSE YOU TO MISS OUT ON POSSIBLE AID. Complete all financial aid paperwork ASAP!



## How to interpret your financial aid award letter:

1. The best type of financial aid award includes mostly **grants** – those grants could be from:
  - a. The Federal Government (The Pell Grant),
  - b. The state of Virginia (VTAG, CSAP, VCAP, VGAP, or CTGP), or
  - c. The college itself.

All of these grants provide you with free money for college that you do not have to pay back.

2. Your package may also include a **work-study** component. Work-study means that the college will give you a job that will help you afford your tuition bill.
  - a. The money you earn goes directly to you, and then you can save it and apply it towards your tuition bill.
3. Your package may also include **Federal Loans** – these loans are borrowed in your name, not your parent's, *so it is your responsibility to pay them back*. There are three different types, and you may be offered all three in your financial aid package:
  - a. **Direct Subsidized**
    - i. Best kind of loan because it has the *lowest interest rate* AND the *government pays the interest* for you while you're in college.
  - b. **Direct Unsubsidized**
    - i. Second best kind of loan because it has the same *low interest rate* as the Subsidized Loan. The only difference is that the interest starts accruing immediately, while you're still in college.
4. You may also be offered a Direct **Parent PLUS Loan** – this loan is in your parent's name, not yours. It is the fourth best kind of loan because the *interest rate is slightly higher* than all three of the Federal Loans that can be borrowed in your (the student's) name.
  - a. Your parents must qualify for this loan and be willing to accept it on your behalf in order for you to receive it.
  - b. *If you don't see the Parent PLUS Loan on your financial aid award letter, your parent can apply for the loan directly at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) by logging in with his/her FSA ID and password.*
  - c. If the college will not offer the PLUS Loan to your parents, they must offer an additional \$4,000 in Direct Unsubsidized Loans to you, the student.
5. It is **ok to borrow a manageable amount of money in Federal Loans** to pay for your college tuition – college is an investment for your future because *it will help you earn more money* in the long run.
6. However, it is generally **not a good idea to borrow private loans**. If you can't afford to pay your tuition bill after all the grants, work-study offers, federal loans, and private scholarships you have received, then that college is not a good choice for you.

## Understanding the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – students may not be over-awarded scholarships:

- Students cannot use need-based federal, state, institutional aid OR private scholarships to replace the EFC. Need-based scholarship amounts may be reduced to prevent over-awarding. For example:
  - A student was awarded a \$5,000 need-based private scholarship; however, the student could only receive \$3,296 of the original award due to the family's EFC

<b>University cost of attendance</b>	\$68,512
<b>Total federal, state, and institutional grants (free money)</b>	- \$58,718
<b>EFC from FAFSA</b>	- \$6,498
<b>Financial Need</b>	\$3,296

- If the family feels they cannot pay the \$6,498 EFC, they may use Federal Student Loans or the Federal Parent PLUS Loan to cover the cost of the EFC

# Financial Aid Award Comparison Tool



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## Calculating Net Price

College Name				
<b>Fixed Costs</b> (included on tuition bill, paid directly to the college)	Tuition & Fees			
	Room & Board			
<b>Variable Costs</b> (paid out of pocket throughout the year, estimates based on local cost of living)	Textbooks			
	Personal (toiletries, laundry, etc.)			
	Transportation (daily commute, travel home on breaks)			
<b>Total Cost of Attendance</b>	Fixed Costs + Variable Costs			

<b>Free Money</b>	Total Federal Grants (Pell, FSEOG)			
	Total State Grants (VGAP, Commonwealth Grant, etc.)			
	Total Institutional Aid (merit or financial need-based scholarships from the college itself)			
<b>Total Free Money</b>	Federal Grants + State Grants + Institutional Aid			

<b>Net Price</b>	Total Cost of Attendance – Total Free Money			
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## Calculating the Financial Aid Gap

<b>Outside Scholarships*</b>	Total Private Scholarships (SFA, Urban League, etc.)			
<b>Initial Financial Aid Gap</b>	Net Price – Outside Scholarships			

<b>Student Loans</b>	Federal Subsidized			
	Federal Unsubsidized			
<b>Student Earnings</b>	Work-Study			
<b>Total Student Self Help</b>	Student Loans + Earnings			

<b>Total Financial Aid Gap (Fixed + Variable Costs)</b>	Initial Financial Aid Gap – Total Student Self Help			
<b>Fixed Costs Financial Aid Gap (Fixed Costs only)</b>	Total Financial Aid Gap – Variable Costs			

# What if my aid award is not enough?



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## Consider appealing your financial aid award. Situations warranting appeal include:

- **Change in family finances.** If there has been a significant change in family finances, such as a parent losing employment or income, a family business declaring bankruptcy, or payment of huge medical expenses not covered by insurance, explain how these changes will cause a financial hardship on the family and how you (student or parent/guardian) would like to request an increase in financial aid for the coming school year. Have all supporting information ready to discuss or email.
- **The best offer of financial aid is not from the student's top choice college or university.** If the best financial aid offer is not from your favorite school, contact your favorite school's financial aid office and explain how the school is your top choice, but financial aid awards from another college are significantly better. You (student or parent/guardian) must be honest and explain that the difference between financial aid offers may force the student to enroll elsewhere.
- **The aid package is just not enough.** Detail the amount the student/parent realistically will be able to contribute to college expenses, and explain the gap the financial aid package does not cover. Ask if there is any way you can be considered for additional scholarships from the financial aid office, admissions office, or the student's specific academic department.

## How to appeal your financial aid award:

- **Call the financial aid office for a verbal appeal, then follow up with supporting documentation.** Be prepared for long holds during this time of year. Express concern rather than anger, and work with the financial aid officer, not against him/her.
- **Follow up with a written appeal and supporting documentation.** At this late stage of the college selection process, it is recommended that appeals be completed by email (regular mail may take too long); send an electronic letter of appeal to the financial aid officer responsible for your file (or to the financial aid office if you do not know the name of your financial aid officer) and explain your situation. Ask if there is anything that can be done to increase your financial aid awards.

## Apply for Private Scholarships

- Ms. Feldman sends out a monthly scholarship email with upcoming local and national scholarship deadlines, and she would be happy to help you determine which scholarships might be a good match for you. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/SFAemail> or email [margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us)

## Sign up for a Payment Plan

- Many colleges offer payment plans that allow you to pay a bit of your balance each month. Most colleges require only a small enrollment fee (\$15-\$30), but some colleges take advantage of families through hefty fees or interest payments. Do your research to see if your college offers an affordable payment plan.

## Start with Community College

- Community colleges (such as NOVA) cost less than 4-year schools. The tuition for one year at NOVA is \$5,610 (or \$561 per month on the payment plan). If your student qualifies for the Pell Grant through the FAFSA, he/she will actually get money back from NOVA (about \$585 a year) that he/she can use to pay for books and transportation expenses. Your student can then transfer to a 4-year college to complete the final 2 years of his/her bachelor's degree.

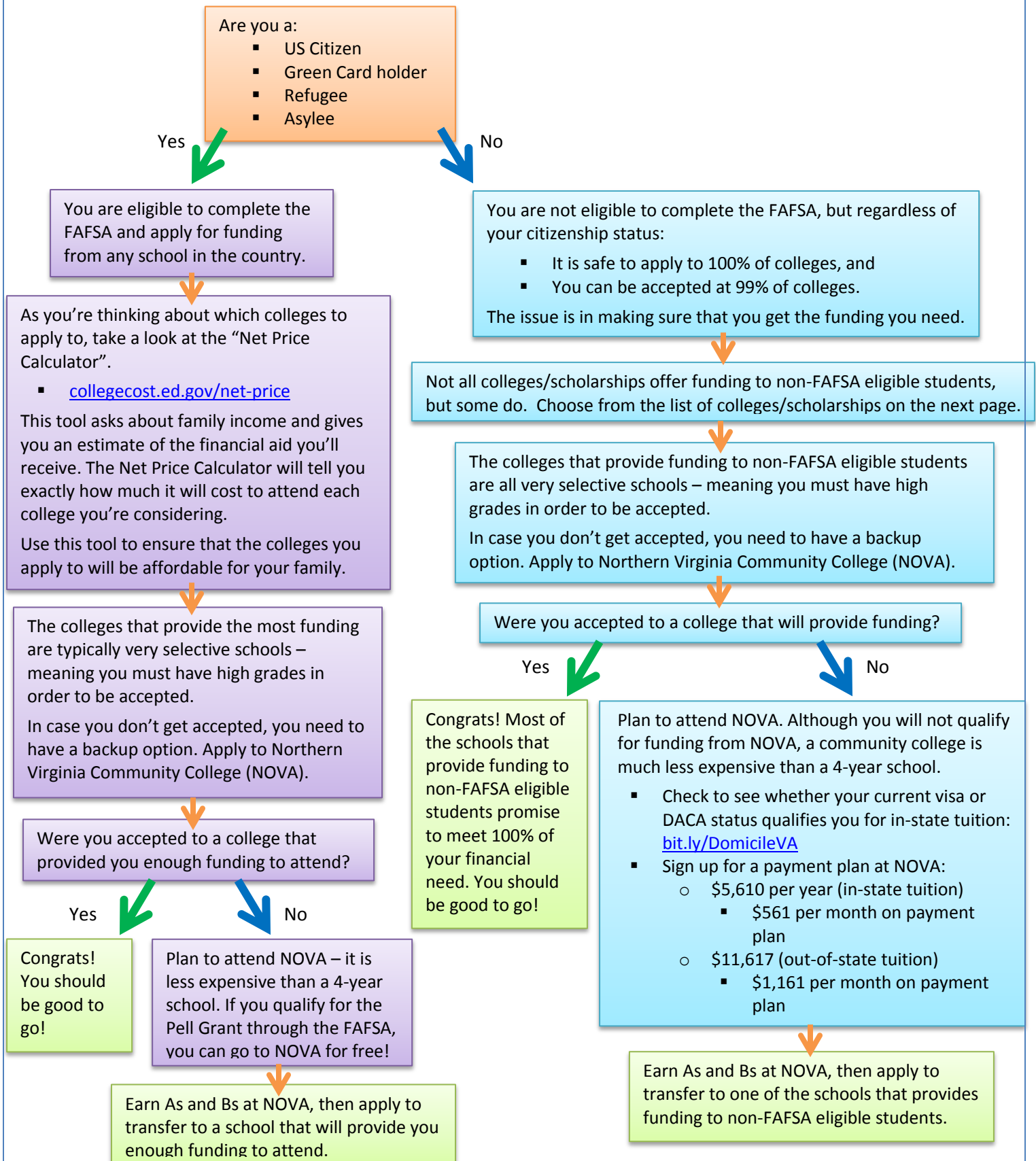
# Citizenship, Financial Aid, & College Options



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# Resources for Non-FAFSA Eligible Students



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## Colleges that Provide Funding to Non-FAFSA Eligible Students:

First, make sure that you are applying to the right colleges! Some universities will not fund students who are non-FAFSA eligible; however, many schools do! For a specific list of colleges that give significant financial aid to non-FAFSA eligible students, see below. College policies change over time, so always be sure to follow up with the specific schools to which you plan to apply. If the school of your dreams isn't on this list, give that college a call and see if they might be willing to offer you some funds!

- Agnes Scott College (Georgia)#
- Amherst College (Massachusetts)\$+
- Bard College (New York) – Limited funding
- Bates College (Maine)\$
- Berea College (Kentucky) – Funding for DACA approved students only
- Bowdoin College (Maine)\$+
- Brown University (Rhode Island)\$+
- Bryn Mawr (Pennsylvania )\$
- California Institute of Technology (California)+
- Carleton College (Minnesota)+
- Claremont McKenna (California)+ – Limited funding
- Colby College (Maine)\$+
- Colorado College (Colorado)+
- Columbia University (New York)\$+
- Cornell (New York) – Funding for DACA eligible students only
- Dartmouth College (New Hampshire)\$+
- Davidson College (North Carolina)+#
- Duke University (North Carolina)\$+
- Emory University (Georgia)+# - Meets full need of undocumented and DACA students
- Franklin & Marshall College (Pennsylvania)\$
- George Mason University (Virginia)^
- Grinnell College (Iowa)\$+
- Guilford College (North Carolina)#
- Hamilton College (New York)+#
- Harvard University (Massachusetts)\$
- Haverford College (Pennsylvania)\$+
- Lafayette College (Pennsylvania)\$\*
- Lehigh University (Pennsylvania)#
- Macalaster College (Minnesota)+
- Marymount University (Virginia) – Limited funding
- Meredith College (North Carolina)#
- Middlebury College (Vermont)\$
- MIT (Massachusetts)\$+
- Mount Holyoke (Massachusetts ) – Limited funding
- Northern Virginia Community College (Virginia)^
- Northwestern University (Illinois)\$+
- Oberlin College (Ohio)\$+#
- Occidental College (California)\$
- Pomona College (California)\$+
- Princeton University (New Jersey)\$+
- Purdue University Global (Online)^
- Queens University of Charlotte (North Carolina)#
- Reed College (Oregon)\$
- Rhodes College (Tennessee)#
- Rice University (Texas)+ – Meets full need of undocumented and DACA students
- Salem College (North Carolina)#
- Santa Clara University (California) – Limited funding
- Scripps College (California)+
- Stanford University (California)\$+
- Smith College (Massachusetts)\$#
- Swarthmore College (Pennsylvania)\$+
- Tufts University (Massachusetts)\$+#
- University of Chicago (Illinois)\$+
- University of Notre Dame (Indiana)+ – Meets full need of undocumented and DACA students
- University of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania)\$+
- University of Puget Sound (Washington) – Significant Funding
- University of Richmond (Virginia)\$
- University of Rochester (New York)\*
- Vanderbilt University (Tennessee)+
- Vassar College (New York)\$+
- Wake Forest University (North Carolina)#
- Washington and Lee University (Virginia)+
- Washington University in St. Louis (Missouri)+
- Wellesley College (Massachusetts)+
- Wesleyan University (Connecticut)\$+
- Whitman College (Washington)\$
- Williams College (Massachusetts)\$+
- Wingate University (North Carolina)#
- Wofford College (South Carolina)#
- Yale University (Connecticut)\$+

*\$ Denotes a college that guarantees to meet the full demonstrated financial need of admitted students*

*+ Denotes a Partner College for the Questbridge Scholarship (more information on p. 22)*

*# Denotes a Partner College for the Golden Door Scholarship (more information on p. 22)*

*^ Denotes a Partner College for the Dream US Scholarship (more information on p. 22)*

*\* Denotes a Partner College for the Posse Scholarship (more information on p. 22)*

## Some Scholarships Open to Non-FAFSA Eligible Students:

Next, make sure you are applying to some scholarships outside of the college. If a scholarship doesn't specify that you must have a certain citizenship status to apply, it could be worth a phone call or email to the sponsoring organization to see if you may be eligible! However, there are also scholarships that are specifically open to students who are not eligible to complete the FAFSA. Check out the list below:

**QuestBridge College Match Scholarship:** <http://www.questbridge.org/for-students/ncm-national-college-match>

- 4-year, full-ride scholarship to QuestBridge partner colleges for high-achieving, low-income students. Some partner colleges award non-FAFSA eligible students (indicated with + on list above).

**Golden Door Scholarship:** <http://www.goldendoorscholars.org/>

- 4-year, full-ride scholarship for students with DACA or TPS status. Preference for students attending a Golden Door partner college (indicated with # on list above) *Also open to students currently enrolled in college.*

**The Dream US Scholarship :** <http://www.thedream.us/scholarships/>

- 4-year, full-tuition scholarship for DACA or TPS eligible students who are admitted to a Dream US partner college (indicated with ^ on list above). *Also open to students currently enrolled in community college.*

**Posse Scholarship:** <http://www.possefoundation.org/>

- 4-year, full-tuition scholarship to Posse partner colleges for high-achieving student leaders. Two partner colleges (indicated with \* on list above) award non-FAFSA eligible students. Must be nominated to apply.

**Herb Block Scholarship:** <https://www.herblockfoundation.org/scholarships>

- Local \$8,000 renewable scholarship open to DACA students who plan to attend Northern Virginia Community College. *Also open to students who are currently enrolled in college.*

**Dream Project Virginia Scholarship:** <http://www.dreamproject-va.org/dream-scholarship/how-to-apply/>

- Local scholarship open to students who were born outside of the United States or have at least one parent who was born outside of the United States. *Also open to students currently enrolled in college.*

**Next Gen Scholarship:** <http://www.perkconsulting.net/about/nextgen/>

- Local scholarship open to non-citizens with 3.0 GPA or higher. *Also open to students currently enrolled in college.*

**Esperanza Scholarship:** <http://www.esperanzafund.org/>

- Local scholarship open to students born outside the US, or students who have two parents born outside the US.

**The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria:** <https://www.alexscholarshipfund.org/>

- Local scholarship open to all TC seniors with 2.5+ GPA regardless of citizenship status. Renewable throughout college.

**Educational Opportunities for Alexandrians:** <https://www.educationalopportunitiesforalexandrians.org/>

- Local scholarship open to TC seniors with 2.5+ GPA who are ineligible for FAFSA & plan to enroll at NOVA.

**Virginia ESL Scholarship:** <https://www.vesava.org/scholarships>

- Local scholarship open to seniors with 3.0+ GPA who were enrolled in ESL for at least 1 year in grades 6-12.

**Generation Hope Scholarship:** <http://supportgenerationhope.org/scholar-application/>

- Local scholarship for teen parents with DACA status. *Also open to students currently enrolled in college.*

**Hispanic Scholarship Fund:** <https://hsf.net/en/scholarships/>

- Open to students of Hispanic heritage, including students with DACA status; 3.0 GPA +.

**Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards:** <http://hispanicheritage.org/programs/leadership/youth-awards/>

- Open to students of Hispanic heritage with GPA of 3.0 or higher, including students with DACA status.

**Goya Culinary Arts Scholarship:** <https://www.goya.com/en/scholarship>

- \$5,000 scholarship for DACA eligible high school senior planning on studying culinary arts in college next year.

**The Point Foundation Scholarship:** <https://pointfoundation.org/point-apply/application-faqs/>

- Scholarship open to students who identify as members of the LGBTQ community, including undocumented and DACA students. *Also open to students currently enrolled in college.*

**Science Ambassador Scholarship:** <https://www.scienceambassadorscholarship.org/>

- 4 year, full-tuition scholarship for females seeking an undergraduate degree in science, engineering, or math; open to all students regardless of immigration status. *Also open to students currently enrolled in college.*

**Scholarship America Dream Award:** <https://www.scholarsapply.org/dreamaward/>

- \$5,000-15,000 renewable scholarships *open to current college freshmen* with DACA status and 3.0+ GPA.

**Davis Putter Scholarship:** <http://www.davisputter.org/apply/apply-for-scholarships/>

- Open to students who actively participate in struggles for civil rights, economic justice, international solidarity or other progressive issues. *Also open to students currently enrolled in college.*

Looking to find additional scholarships? Check out these scholarship lists for non-FAFSA eligible students to see if additional funds have become available.

**MALDEF:** <https://www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources/> - Scholarship List

**Immigrant's Rising:** <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-of-undergraduate-scholarships/> - Scholarship List

**Scholarships A-Z:** <http://www.scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships/> - Scholarship List

**DREAMer's Roadmap:** <http://www.dreamersroadmap.com/scholarships/> - Scholarship App

**My (Un)documented Life:** <http://mydocumentedlife.org/> - Scholarship Blog

### Criteria for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Eligibility:

- Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
- Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
- Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
- Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS;
- Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012;
- Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

### DACA Benefits:

- Eligible for **in-state tuition** at Virginia colleges
- Get a **Social Security Number**
- Receive a **work permit** and the ability to have a job with benefits (like **health insurance**)
- Apply for a **driver's license**
- Ability to pass a **background check**
- You can apply for a credit card and begin to build your **credit history**
- Obtaining this status DOES NOT qualify you for federal financial aid, BUT it does make it **easier to obtain scholarships**

### How to Qualify for In-State Tuition in Virginia with DACA Status:

Provided that you have current valid DACA status (and have been living in Virginia with valid DACA status for at least one year), you should be eligible for in-state tuition. However, you may be automatically classified as out-of-state and have to go through an appeals process in order to be switched to in-state. The following documents help prove your residency in Virginia. It's ok if you can't provide all of them, but show as much as you can to make the strongest possible case!

- DACA approval notice
- Virginia learner's permit/driver's license and Virginia car registration
- Piece of mail addressed to you at your current address
- Transcript from your high school showing your current mailing address
- Diploma from your high school
- W-2 and tax return (federal and state)
- Lease

### Important DACA Updates:

President Trump has decided to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA). What does this mean for students who currently hold DACA status?

***I meet the eligibility criteria for DACA status. Can I still submit a new application?***

- New applications for DACA status are not currently being accepted. Please check with SFA for updates

***My DACA status is expiring soon. Can I submit a renewal application?***

- Yes, due to federal court orders, renewal applications are currently being accepted

***I currently have DACA status. Does this change to the policy mean that I automatically lose DACA?***

- No, your DACA is still valid until its expiration date