

FINANCIAL AID BASICS

What Students & Families
Need to Know



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

NACAC

National Association for
College Admission Counseling

TAKE STEPS TO MINIMIZE DEBT



Planning how to finance a degree has become a more prominent part of the college application process. By becoming aware of the costs associated with college, your family is better positioned to incorporate educational costs into your savings plan.

Save the Date

Attend Our Information Sessions

On November 14th from 5:30 - 6:30 pm The O'Neill Guidance Department will present Financial Aid Basics; what Students & Families Need to Know.

Earlier that day from 11:30 to 12:30 A representative from NYS Higher Education Services Corporation will provide a similar presentation.

Please attend the workshop hour that fits your schedule. You can attend both if you can since there may be different audience questions asked and the presentations may be slightly different. If you cannot attend or would like to review the presentation, both presentations will be recorded and posted on O'Neill's website afterwards.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

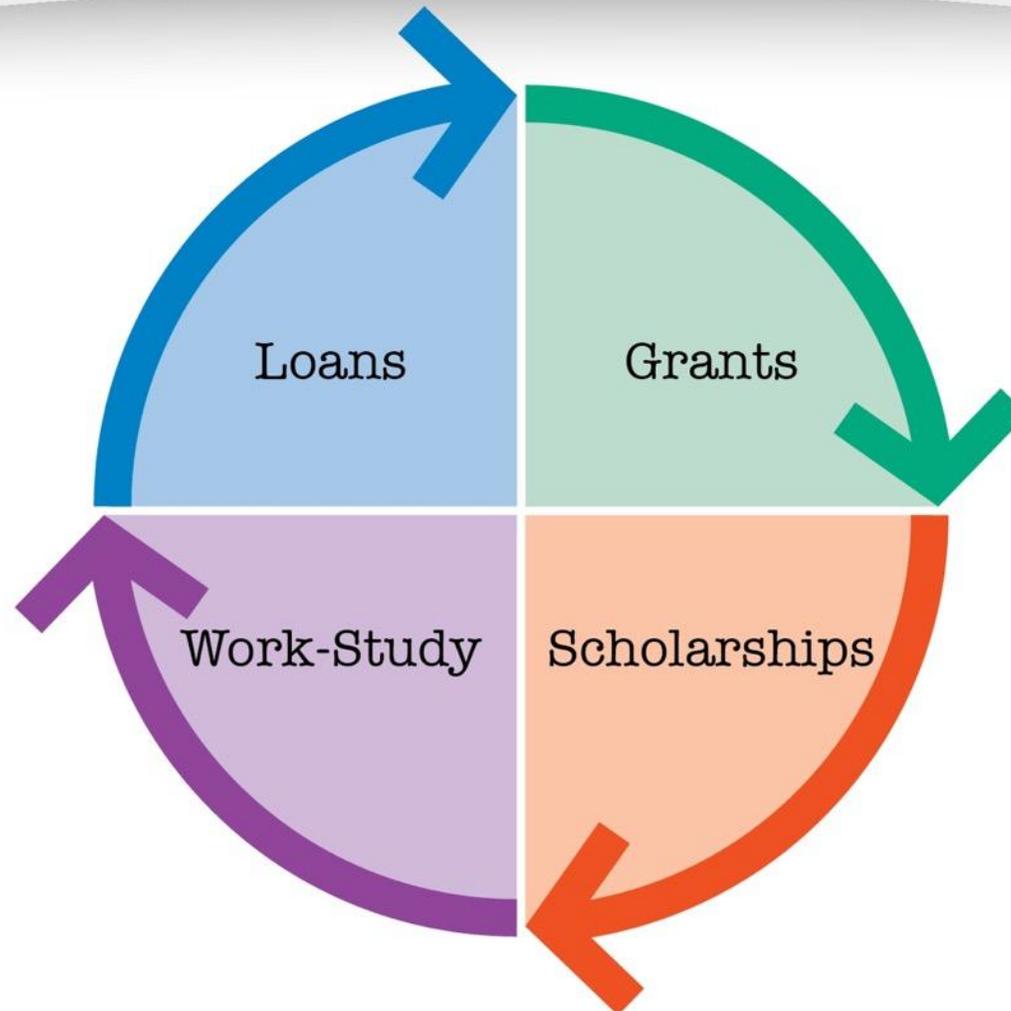
- ❖ Most colleges will award both need-based (determined based on FAFSA) and merit-based scholarships
- ❖ Work Study
- ❖ Financial Aid estimators: visit college websites, schools will allow you to plug in your financial information and give you an estimate on what you will receive

Scholarship Opportunities:

Check out what is **Posted**:

- School Email
- Naviance account
- Guidance Office
- Websites: examples (fastweb.com, collegeboard.org, scholarships.com)

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID



FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Did you know that the average time to complete the FAFSA is just 23 minutes?!

Completing the **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** is the first step in securing **federal aid** for college, career school, or graduate school.

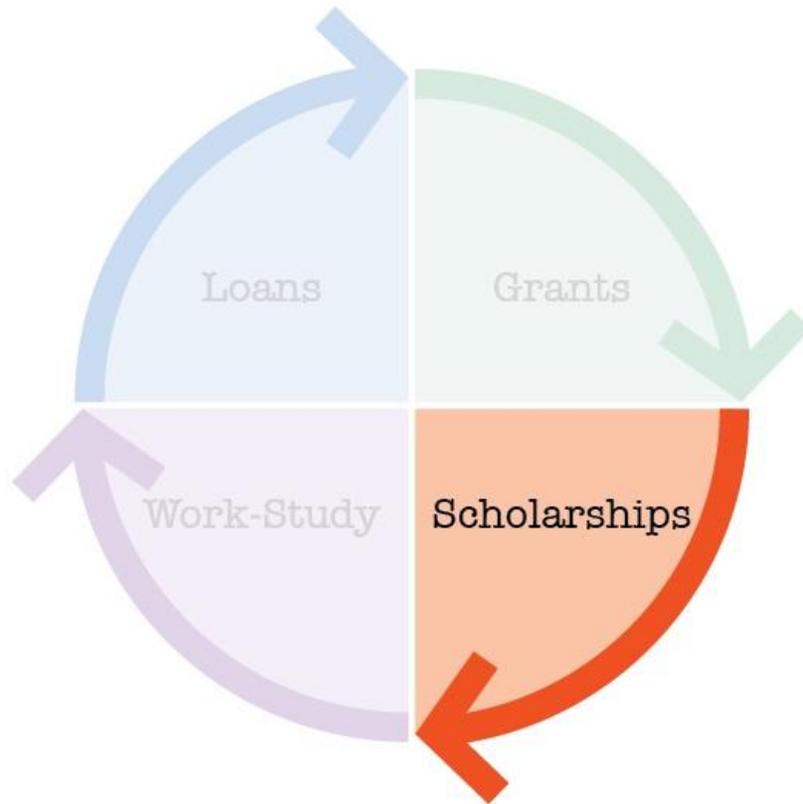
– www.fafsa.ed.gov



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, it features the logo for 'Federal Student Aid' with the text 'An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION' and 'PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND®'. To the right is the 'FAFSA®' logo and the text 'Free Application for Federal Student Aid'. Below this is a navigation bar with icons for Home, About Us, FSA ID, StudentAid.gov, and Help, along with a search bar and language options for English and Español. The main heading reads 'Get help paying for college' with the subtext 'Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)'. Below the heading is a collage of photos of diverse students. The page is divided into two columns: 'New to the FAFSA?' with a 'Start A New FAFSA' button, and 'Returning User?' with a list of options (Make a correction, Add a school, View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...) and a 'Login' button.

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

To be
considered for
Scholarships You
Have to Apply!



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

2019 Common Scholarship Application Part 1

This is the first part of the Common Scholarship Application. You need to fill out this part of the application to be considered for our Scholarship Opportunities. This form will be used in addition to a series of questions (Part 2 of the application) that you will complete through your English class.

<https://goo.gl/forms/6lyolwgpvGt3j15z2>

2019 Common Scholarship Application Part 2

This is the second part of the Common Scholarship Application.
There are 3 Sections in this part.

The more detailed and thoughtful your responses, the better the chance that you will be considered for a Senior award or a scholarship.

Section I

1. What are your long-term future goals? How will you be preparing for them next year (for example, do you have an intended major or area of work you plan to pursue)?
2. How do you plan to pay for college? Describe the financial circumstances/struggles that you and your family may be dealing with that the scholarship committee should be considerate of when determining your level of need?
3. Describe challenges and/or struggles you have had to deal with while in high school? How did you overcome these obstacles? Why do you believe you were successful?
4. What are your most notable talents and skills? What has led you to believe that these are distinctive areas of note for you? How have these abilities helped to define you as a person?
5. Describe ways you have actively served others in your school and/or your community during your high school years. (Be specific and thorough. Many scholarships are based on community service.)
6. Why do you feel you deserve or should be considered for a scholarship? What makes you stand out from your peers? What moment/memory exemplifies your distinctiveness?
7. (Optional) - Share any additional information about yourself not covered by previous responses.

Section II: Submit this form with a copy of your resume.

Section III: There are scholarships for which financial need is a factor. After a student submits the FAFSA online, about a week or so later, they receive a SAR (Student Aid Report) via email. On that Student Aid Report, page 1, has the Expected Family Contribution \$ amount (EFC \$ amount). **Submit the Student Aid Report (SAR) with that EFC \$ amount to your Guidance Counselor.** (You will probably need your parent's/guardian's assistance to complete this section).

What is Community and High School Service?

A great way to

- Participate in opportunities that help others
- Support and improve your school and community
- Gain skills and experience

When sharing your community and high school service experiences on a scholarship application be sure to include details such as what opportunities did you participate in and who did you help through these activities? How do you feel that you and/or the organization that you were part of supported and improved the school and/or community?

What skills and experience did you gain from your involvement?