

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

GW Community School

FAFSA is the first step for College financial aid. FAFSA is first application to be completed in order to apply for virtually all types of financial aid for higher education. This form is distributed and processed by the United States Department of Education. It is used in applying for all Federal Title IV student aid programs, including Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, and the campus-based programs. The FAFSA collects the information required to determine need and eligibility for financial aid. You can begin filling out the FAFSA application on January 1st.

- FAFSA - <http://www.fafsa.com/>

Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant Program: TAG (Tuition Assistance Grant) is a program of the Commonwealth of Virginia which provides annual grants to Virginia residents who are full-time students at eligible private colleges and universities in Virginia.

- General Info: <http://www.cicv.org/taginfo.html>
- Application: <http://www.schev.edu/forms/tag%20app.pdf> (complete online) or <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http://www.schev.edu/forms/TAG%2520App.pdf> (print and complete)
- Fact Sheet (including list of participating schools): <http://www.schev.edu/students/factsheetVTAG.asp>

College Board: There is a whole section on the College Board website called “Pay for College” and it has a wealth of information on financial aid, scholarships and loans. It’s a good place to start. Following are a couple quick links:

- College Board Scholarship List: <http://collegeboard.com/parents/pay/scholarships-aid/21403.html>
- College Board Financial Aid Profile: <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>

College Websites: Be sure to spend time on the websites of the colleges you’ve applied to because each school will have its own process and deadlines for applying for their scholarships, grants and financial aid.

Scholarships: There are many websites that can help you find scholarships, a few are listed below. Start by searching for scholarships specific to your personal interests, hobbies, religion, ethnic background, academic or athletic strengths.

- **fastWEB** is a free online scholarship matching service and college search service. Students submit a detailed profile to the site, which then matches the profile against a scholarship database that lists more than 1.5 million awards worth more than \$3.4 billion. The scholarship database is updated daily, and the site automatically notifies the student when a new award is added that matches the student's profile. The typical high school senior will match more than 100 awards. Students who submit a more complete profile will match significantly more awards than students who answer none of the optional questions. www.fastweb.com
- **Scholarships.com** provides students the opportunity to search 2.7 million college scholarships and grants worth over \$19 billion by conducting a free scholarship search Scholarships.com. Scholarships.com also offers several of their own scholarships. <http://www.scholarships.com/>
- <http://www.college-scholarships.com/>

Informative Online Articles:

- Financial Aid: How to get what’s coming to you: <http://money.cnn.com/pf/college/features/financialaid/>
- College Scholarships: 4 Ways to Win a Scholarship: <http://moneywatch.bnet.com/saving-money/blog/college-solution/college-scholarships-4-ways-to-win-a-scholarship/1761/>
- Paying for College (US News and World Report): <http://www.usnews.com/sections/education/paying-for-college/>