

Scholarship and Grants Guide

**What are scholarships and grants?**

Scholarships and grants are financial aid that you do not have to pay back. Scholarships and grants are awarded for merit, financial need or both. This type of funding can come from the government, your child’s university or college, and outside organizations.

**When should your child start applying for scholarships?**

It’s never too early to start applying! The more applications your child submits the more opportunities they have to help fund their college education. Once your child starts applying to things, they can use the essays they write for other scholarships! We suggest applying to at least four scholarships a semester.

**What does it take to get a scholarship?**

Well that depends on the scholarship. Every scholarship has different requirements. Your child can ensure they have the best chances of earning a scholarship by having the highest grades they can and submitting quality applications. This means spending time creating the best application they can and ideally having them edited by someone else. If your child would like SWAG To College to edit their application, all they have to do is share a google doc with [essays@swagtocollege.org](mailto:essays@swagtocollege.org).

**How does your child apply for them?**

1. You and your child must fill out the FAFSA to qualify them for federal aid and any need based scholarships or grants the college or university may have. Universities and colleges use this application to determine the type and amount of aid your child will receive.
   1. Some colleges and universities require extra financial aid forms such as the CSS profile. Please contact someone in the financial aid office to learn more.
2. To start the financial aid process early or for extra financial aid your student can apply to outside scholarships. Encourage your child to find scholarships that are right for them. It is important that they apply to things they meet all the requirements to. Below are websites that can help your child find local, state, and national scholarships.
   1. Scholarship websites we suggest:
      1. <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
      2. <https://www.fastweb.com/>
      3. <https://www.cappex.com/>
3. Ask your child’s college counselor!
   * 1. There are important scholarship opportunities your child’s counselor can nominate your child for. Scholarships like Gates, Questbridge, and Posse are great because they give a larger amount of aid.
        1. <https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship>
        2. <https://www.questbridge.org>
        3. <http://www.possefoundation.org>
4. Ask around in your community! There may be scholarship opportunities at your neighborhood center, place of faith, or your child’s school.