

Types of Financial Aid

Grants: State and federal grants do not have to be repaid.

Scholarships: Scholarships are awarded based on merit, need, and numerous other affiliations. Scholarships do not have to be repaid.

Loans: There are public and private loans. Unlike grants, loans must be repaid.

Student employment or work study: An opportunity to work while in school in order to earn money for college expenses.

Applying for financial aid

Go to <http://pin.ed.gov> to request a PIN that you will need for your next step below.

To apply for student financial aid from the federal government, including the Pell Grant, Perkins Loan, Stafford Loan and work-study, you will need to submit the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). There is no charge for submitting this form. The FAFSA is also required by all state and many school student assistance programs.

The FAFSA, should be submitted as soon as possible after January 1, but no sooner. You cannot submit the form before January 1, because the need analysis process uses your financial information from the prior tax year when calculating eligibility for the upcoming award year. To meet the deadline for Maryland, you should submit the form no later than March 1.

Some private colleges and universities will require one or more supplemental forms to obtain information not included on the FAFSA. They may have their own forms or they may ask you to complete the College Board's [CSS PROFILE](#) form.

If the college of your choice and your parents cannot meet the expenses for your college tuition, you may have to borrow money. Educate yourself about loans.

Check the scholarship bin in the Counseling Office for scholarship applications. Local scholarship applications will be available through the School Counseling office in February, 2011. These are one-time awards. The awards will be made at the annual Awards Assembly prior to graduation.

Check out these sites for additional financial aid and scholarship resources:

<http://www.finaid.org>

<http://www.fastweb.com>

<http://www.student-loans.com/Repay.html>

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>