

## Securing Financial Aid and/or Scholarship (Searches)

*Warning! There are no shortcuts to securing information about colleges and financial aid. It requires patience and perserverance.*

**I. The Common Application:** <http://www.commonapp.org/> Over 700 colleges accept the Common Application as a way to apply for admission to their school.

### **II: Financial Aid**

Parents whose students are planning on attending college next year should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after OCTOBER 1st (this is earlier than in past years). Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to complete the FAFSA. You should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st to have the best chance at student aid.

Loans: Are paid back to government at low interest rate. Co-Signers will be required for guaranteed student loans.

Grants: Do not have to be paid back.

**Whether you attend a public OR private college,** both financial aid packages are usually determined, in part, by your FAFSA. Even if your parents have not filed their 2016 taxes, they can estimate their income and then modify your application later if you need to.

**III: Utilize Your Resources:** Go to Winona Senior High School Counseling office site: <http://www.wshs.new.rschooltoday.com/page/3222>

Minnesota Office of Higher Education website - <http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/>

Covers a lot of information such as the topics listed below:

Choosing a College

Choosing A College, Institution Profiles

Choosing A College, Institution Programs

Free Application for Financial Aid

Admissions Policies

Financial Aid Basics

**Grants & Scholarships (Free Money)**

Student Loans & Consumer Protection

### **III. Paying for College**

Financial Aid Estimator

Online Applications

What Does College Cost?

About Financial Aid

Financial Aid You Don't Repay

Financial Aid You Must Repay (Student Loans)

Financial Aid You Earn

Military Service Education Benefits

Reduced Out-of-State Tuition Options

Education Tax Benefits

New Video Demystifies Paying for College

### **Step II: Searching for Scholarships**

You will probably need 1 to 3 letters of recommendation from adults who can speak positively about you as a person and a student. You can assist them in writing, such a letter, by giving them a *resume or Vitae* with your background experiences, so they can reference those kinds of things, in their letter, about you.

Searching for Scholarships: Utilize FinAid! <http://www.finaid.org/> or FastWeb - <http://www.fastweb.com/>

What is Fastweb? The leading online resource in finding scholarships to help you pay for school.

Local Scholarships:

Local Scholarships listed on the WSHS Counseling Site:

<http://www.wshs.new.rschooltoday.com/page/3108>

Minnesota Scholarships:

<https://www.mycollegeoptions.org/MN/0/Minnesota/search-results-scholarship-search-by-location.aspx>

collegescholarships.com

<http://www.collegescholarships.com/local/minnesota/winona-county>

Winona State University

<http://www.winona.edu/admissions/Scholarships.asp>

Southeast Technical College

<http://www.southeastmn.edu/scholarships/>