

## Scholarship and Financial Aid Tips

**Scholarship and Financial Aid** are two different sources of financial assistance to help students and parents offset the cost of college.

**Scholarships**, simply defined, are moneys that individuals or entities give as a free gift to deserving students based on various criteria including: leadership, financial need, academic achievement, academic majors, career plans, ancestry or family relationship, ethnicity, national origin, religion, group affiliation, and so on.

Scholarships can be grouped into various categories. For simplicity I like to use three large divisions and attempt to squeeze them all into these categories.

**Category 1. Corporate Scholarships.** These scholarships are from companies that set up regional, state and/or national competitions. Companies like Target, Scantron, Coca-Cola, PG&E, etc. offer scholarships. I also like to put into this group, state and national organizations like California Women for Agriculture, Will-to-win Asthma Scholarship, etc. The “Corporate Scholarships” are generally very competitive, but the odds become better if the criteria are more specific. Check out the web: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org), [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [brosescholars.com](http://brosescholars.com), [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com), and [www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com), or just Google it...dog grooming scholarships.

**Category 2. Institutional Scholarships.** These scholarships are housed at the College or University where students are applying. Some colleges include scholarships in their admissions applications. Some colleges invite students to apply or will enter students directly into scholarship competitions based on the information in the college application. At other colleges the student has to search online for the colleges financial aid site.

**Category 3. Local Scholarships.** These scholarships are generated from our high school alumni or family of alumni. They also come from local business and service organizations. Because the applicant pool is limited to our local school, these are the “best bet” scholarships. Many of these local scholarships are administered through the Chico Community Scholarship Foundation. By submitting an application a student can be considered to win one of approximately 60 scholarships.

**Financial Aid** is money that is made available by the State and Federal governments. The application for aid is called the **FAFSA**. The FAFSA should be submitted online between January 1 and March 2. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) A **PIN number** is needed to submit your FAFSA. A PIN number is an electronic signature and can be obtained at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). The FAFSA has all the information that the Federal government needs to determine a student’s financial need. The FAFSA contains all the information that the State government needs except for the student’s grade point average (GPA). The student submits their GPA by using a **GPA Verification** form. Chico High School submits an online GPA Verification for students to verify GPA’s to the State. GPA Verification release forms are available in the Chico High Counseling Office.

Information from the FAFSA is used to determine your family contribution. The amount that your family is expected to contribute towards the student’s college is then subtracted from the yearly cost of the college or university. The difference is your financial need. The college then attempts to meet your financial need by offering three different types of financial aid: **Grants**...Free money (Federal – Pell Grant, State – Cal Grant...Free money), **Work study** (on campus jobs), and **Loans**.

**Much could be said about both Scholarships and Financial Aid. Do your research and don’t miss DEADLINES!!!!**