

Open DOORS

4 Tips for Affording College

Free money exists—here's how to find it.



1 Best First Step

Complete the FAFSA—Every Year

The FAFSA® is the gateway to federal grants, work-study, and loans. File as early as possible—some aid is first-come, first-served. File at studentaid.gov.

2 Free Money

Take Steps to Qualify for BigFuture Scholarships

BigFuture® awards scholarships to students nationwide for completing simple, practical planning milestones. No essays, test scores, or minimum GPA are required. Each time you complete a step, you automatically earn one entry into the monthly drawing for a \$40,000 scholarship and the \$500 scholarships. Students who qualify as lower income earn two entries to each monthly scholarship drawing when they complete a step.

\$40,000

Monthly Scholarships

Two students who have completed college planning activities on BigFuture are selected each month for a \$40,000 scholarship award.

\$500

Monthly Scholarships

Hundreds of \$500 scholarships are awarded every month to students who complete college planning activities on BigFuture.

Visit bigfuture.org/40k to complete steps and qualify.

3 Free Tool

Use Scholarship Search on BigFuture

Scholarship Search includes over 29,000 scholarships sourced from the National Scholarship Provider Association. You can match with scholarships based on your background, interests, future plans, and past achievements. Visit bigfuture.org/scholarship-search.

4 Merit Aid

Take the SAT—Merit Aid Can Follow

Many colleges automatically award merit scholarships based on SAT® scores—no extra application needed. Submitting your scores can mean thousands of dollars per year.

SAT Fee Waiver

If you meet income eligibility requirements, you may qualify for a fee waiver that covers the full cost of the SAT. You'll also send your scores to unlimited colleges and apply to participating colleges for free. Ask your school counselor or visit collegeboard.org/fee-waivers.

Take Your Next Step



Explore more ways to pay for college.

Scan or visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college