



# Show Me the Money: Finding and Applying for Scholarships



**FOUNDATION**

# Paying for College

- 80 percent of students pay for college themselves
- Four out of five college students work at least 19 hours each week while taking classes
- 61 percent say that college is more expensive than they thought it would be
- Tuition paid for through a mixture of loans, grants, scholarships, personal contributions and parents

# Paying for College

1. Start by controlling costs – Planning during high school can reduce the cost of a college education.
  - a) Take the Recommended High School Program.
  - b) Take college courses while in high school (dual credit).
  - c) Take Advanced Placement (AP) classes and exams or place out of college hours by taking a CLEP exam.
  - d) Focus on basic courses for the first two years and avoid switching majors.
  - e) Begin at a community college then transfer to a four-year institution.

# Paying for College

2. Know your options for paying tuition and fees –  
Most colleges and universities expect you to pay in full prior to the first day of class, but many offer a variety of payment options.
  - a) Installment plans
  - b) Emergency loans
  - c) Credit cards
  - d) Financial aid

# Paying for College

3. Take advantage of all forms of aid
  - a) Exemptions
  - b) State and Federal Grants and Scholarships
  - c) Loans
  - d) Tax Credits and Other Programs
  - e) Waiver Programs
  - f) Work Study Programs
  - g) Private/Corporate Grants and Scholarships

# Paying for College

4. Apply for scholarships
  - a) Scholarships are considered free money. The money is donated by corporations, schools, civic groups, trusts, foundations, individual donors and others to help students succeed.
  - b) Scholarships can help pay for tuition, fees and in some cases books and living expenses in addition to other types of aid.
  - c) You can't win if you don't apply!

# Beware of Scams

- ❑ Do not pay application fees
- ❑ Do not fall for “secret” scholarships
- ❑ Do not pay to get information about a scholarship
- ❑ Do not believe in “guaranteed” scholarships
- ❑ Do not give out personal information
- ❑ Do check out websites very closely
- ❑ Do contact scholarship providers
- ❑ For more information visit:  
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/scholarship/>

**Hope is not a strategy**



# Plan Ahead

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- Get organized
- Figure out how much you really need
- Gather supporting documentation like transcripts and SAT or ACT scores
- Make a list of people who might write a letter of reference should one be required
- Complete community service now
- Understand there are many types of scholarships

# Plan Ahead

Not all applications will require an essay, but most will. Common essay questions will cover topics that include:

- a) Academic plans and achievements
- b) Personal achievements
- c) Background and influences
- d) Future plans
- e) Financial need
- f) Social issues and community service

# Plan Ahead

- Start practicing writing scholarship essays in advance using the prompts on the previous slide.
- Type 250-300 word answers in Word or NotePad using a monospaced font (like Courier) with no special formatting (this makes it easier to cut and paste since most applications are electronic).
- If you have access to a writing center or to someone who writes well, ask them to take a look at your answers.

Look



Everywhere

# How to Find Scholarships

College or University

- Apply to the college(s) you plan to attend
- Visit their websites
- Contact their scholarship and/or financial aid offices to find out their scholarship application deadlines
- Remember there are often departmental scholarships as well, depending on your major, that are often not listed through the scholarship offices, so talk to the department chair

# How to Find Scholarships

College or University

- ❑ Do you plan an instrument? Have you thought about marching band?
- ❑ Athletics
- ❑ Ask questions of current students at the college you plan to attend
- ❑ After you have been accepted, remember to pay attention to your campus email. Scholarships may be available at different times. It might not help with that first semester but could help with subsequent semesters, including transfer scholarships.

# How to Find Scholarships

## Local and Regional Sources

- Civic organizations
- Employers
- ISD foundations
- Community foundations
- Utility companies
- Texas Interscholastic League Foundation
- Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

# How to Find Scholarships

## National Sources

- ❑ Large corporations
- ❑ National scholarship programs
- ❑ Scholarships based on intended major
- ❑ Scholarships based on hobbies or interest
- ❑ Search tools and engines

# How to Win Scholarships

- ❑ Stay organized and track your progress
- ❑ Read the requirements carefully
- ❑ Tailor your responses to specifically answer the application questions
- ❑ Include all required information
- ❑ Spend enough time on the task
- ❑ Remember it is a numbers game

# How to Win Scholarships

- Know your deadlines
- Know your audience
- Write an interesting essay
- Proofread
- Start NOW

# Collin College Foundation Scholarships



Kim Davis  
Scholarship Coordinator



FOUNDATION

# What is the Foundation?

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- Independent non-profit 501©(3) organization formed in 1985
- Mission: to support and enhance Collin College through philanthropic support for student scholarships, faculty enrichment and programs of excellence.

# Who can apply?

- ❑ Has a Collin issued ID #
- ❑ Has at least a 2.5 GPA
- ❑ Will be taking at least 6 credit hours per semester
- ❑ Has an email address and access to the internet



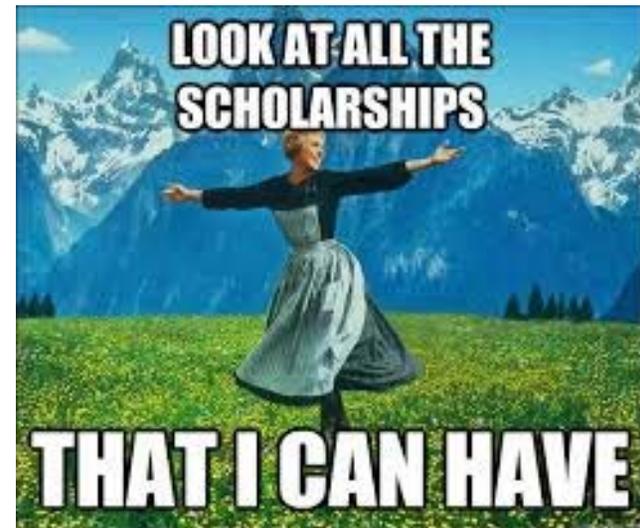
# Where do new students apply?

In January 2016

- Go to [www.collin.edu/gettingstarted](http://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted)
- Complete the ApplyTexas application
- Receive email with student ID# (5-7 days)
- Apply for Financial Aid (FAFSA) at <http://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/financialaid/>

# What types of scholarships do we have?

- Academic
- Field of Study
- Financial Need
- Community Service
- Residency
- More



# Who are our donors?

- Corporations
- Individuals
- Endowments
- Civic Groups
- Faculty and Staff
- Community Foundations



# Why should you apply?

- It's free money.
- Easy online application.
- More Pell grant money.
- Good practice for essay writing in general.
- Pays better than minimum wage.



# How much can you be awarded?

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**\$500 = Lowest award amount**  
(less than 3%)

**\$1,250 = Average award amount**  
(94% of awards)

**\$3,000 = Largest award amount**  
(less than 3%)

# Let's compare!



\$11,806 In state tuition\*  
\$ 3,000 Average scholarship  
\$ 8,806 Cost per year



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS®

\$10,674 In state tuition\*  
\$ 4,000 Average scholarship  
\$ 6,674 Cost per year



\$1,170 In county tuition\*  
\$1,250 Average scholarship  
\$ -80 Cost per year

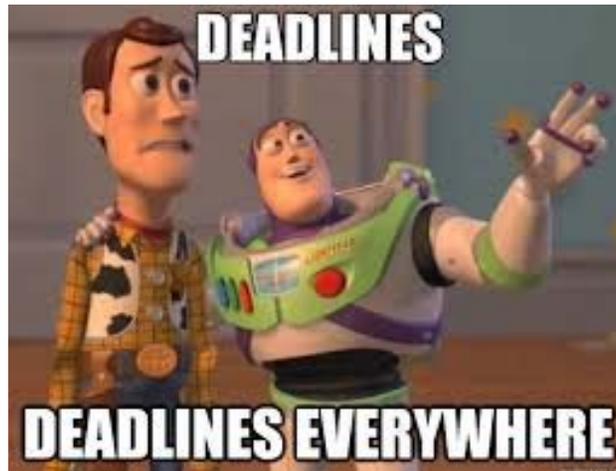
\*Based upon annual cost of tuition and fees for 15 credit hours per semester.



# When and where do I apply?

Where: [www.collin.edu/foundation](http://www.collin.edu/foundation)

When: February 1 – March 31, 2016



# What is on the application?

- Your name, email and ID#
- Degree goal
- General questions
- Essay # 1 – Goals
- Essay #2 – Community Service
- Essay #3 – Financial Circumstances



# What are the Reviewers looking for?

- Is your grammar and spelling correct?
- Did you leap off the page when talking about your goals and ambitions?
- Have you contributed to the community?
- Is there a financial need?
- Did you answer all questions?



# What are some common mistakes?

- Only writing two sentences for each essay
- Drafting but not submitting your application
- Not enough answers for multiple questions
- Not asking someone to review it
- Using a cell phone



# What happens after you apply?

- **March 31:** Last day to submit
- **April 4 - 29:** Review process
- **May 9 – 30:** Award notices
- **June 1 - 30:** Accept/Decline
- **August 4:** Awards ceremony



# Questions I get asked most often



- Can I be awarded more than one scholarship?
- Can I get the money sent to me directly?
- Will the scholarship transfer?
- Can I apply for summer only?

Thank you!

