



# All About Scholarships

Finding Ways to Pay for  
College



**COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING**

**“Providing Illinois students with information and assistance to help make education beyond high school accessible and affordable”**

**- Mission Statement**

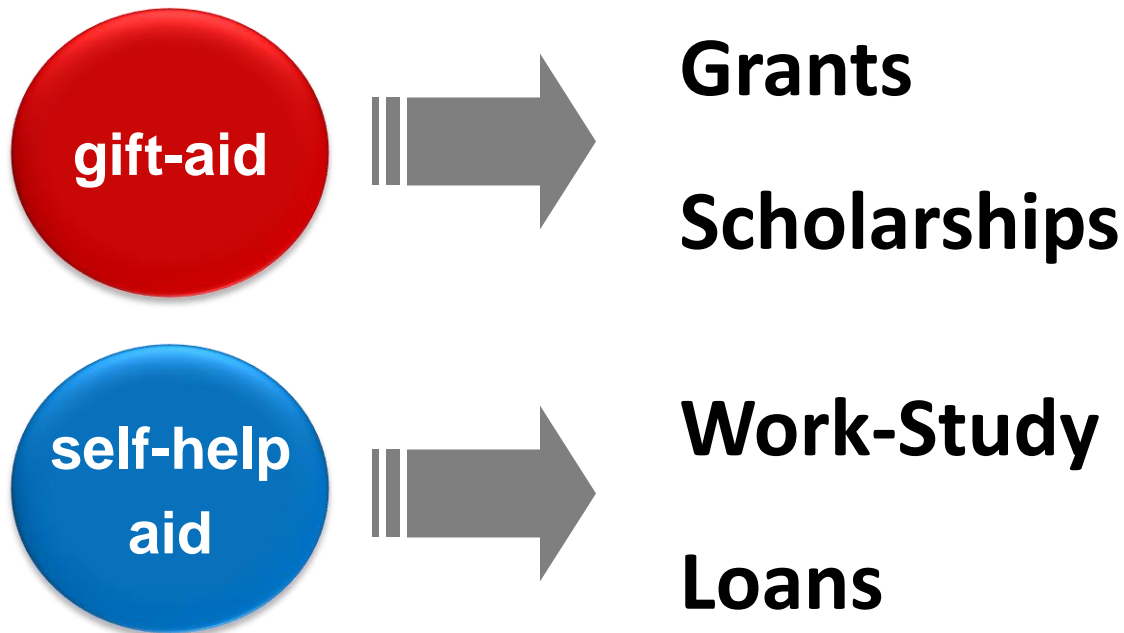
The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is the college access and financial aid agency in the state of Illinois that administers scholarship, grant, prepaid tuition, and student loan repayment/forgiveness programs.

# Overview

- The difference between scholarships and grants
- Scholarship sources
- What elements are included in an application
- How to search for and apply for scholarships

# Types of Financial Aid

There are many types of financial aid.



These funds may be merit-based, need-based, or non need-based.

# The 411 on Scholarships

- Financial aid applied to expenses associated with attending school (i.e. books and supplies, tuition and fees, miscellaneous living expenses)
- Be sure to follow up with your scholarship organization for concrete rules and details.

# Scholarship Sources

Institutional  
(Colleges and Universities)



**Colleges/Universities** offer various scholarships that come from the institution itself and from academic departments within the schools

- Board of Trustees Honor Scholarship

Other Organizations



**Local, state, or national**

Local – South Suburban Cultural Enrichment Organization Scholarship  
State – Minority Teachers of Illinois  
National – Coca-Cola, Starbucks, McDonald's, Greek Organizations

# Why are Scholarships Important?

## 2019-20 Average Annual Tuition and Fees in Illinois

- Public 2 year: \$4,766
- Public 4 year: \$13,499
- Private: \$32,595

For a specific Illinois school: <http://www.isac.org/students/during-college/paying-for-college/college-costs.html>

Over \$1.8 billion award in MAP & PELL alone!!!

# Framing the Value of Scholarships

- Your time can be worth some BIG money:

*Spend four hours on \$1,000 scholarship application*  
*4 hours of work = \$250 per hour*

- Apply for as many as you can
  - You might be exactly what they are looking for!
  - You might be the only applicant!



# Application Elements May Include.....

- General information
  - Demographics
  - Extra-curricular activities; level of involvement
  - Area of intended study
  - Financial need
  - Letters of recommendation
- Academic record (ex: GPA, transcripts)
- Essays/Personal statements
- Additional elements (ex: interviews, auditions, portfolios)

# As You Search for Scholarships, Remember...

- Start early
- Apply to as many as possible
- Keep track of deadlines
- Proofread!!
- Submit all required documents
- No amount is too small – this is FREE money!

# Finding Scholarships

- College web sites and Financial Aid Offices
- High school web site and school counselor
- Community organizations and churches
- Employer (parent's and student's)
- ISAC's free scholarship search on student portal:

[collegegreenlight.com/ISAC](http://collegegreenlight.com/ISAC)

Academic Support

College Planning & Consulting

Application Process

Career Planning

College Info for the Student

Athlete

College Night

College Tours

Common App

Financial Aid

General College Requirements

Selective Schools

Scholarships

Testing Information

Department Staff

High School and Career Planning

Naviance

Student Assistance

Transcripts

Student Job Board

Early College Awareness Program

Scholarship Video

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## Scholarships

In this section, you will find information that will assist you along with the scholarship process. Take some time to look through the different avenues to receive scholarships. As we always say in the office, "Finding scholarships is not easy. It will take some time, but the time is well worth it!"

Though not a scholarship, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program for great values. Students in the State of Illinois can now benefit from reduced tuition at participating institutions in surrounding states compliments of MSSEP. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Here are a few tips on how to find scholarships.

Below are a few scholarship search links:

- Fastweb.com
- [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)
- [studentscholarships.org](http://studentscholarships.org)
- [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)
- [thescholarshipfund.org](http://thescholarshipfund.org)
- [State of Illinois scholarship programs](http://State of Illinois scholarship programs)
- [Cappex.com](http://Cappex.com)
- [Collegegreenlight.com](http://Collegegreenlight.com)
- GoodCall
- JEN College Counseling
- UNIGO
- United Negro College Fund
- Going Merry

Print Page

Email Page

## Scholarship Applications

As we receive scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 school year, they will be posted here.

**Ben Brown Scholarship**

**Sigma Gamma Rho Scholarship**

**Isi Club Chicago**

**IACAC (Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling)**

**Conservation Achievement Scholarship**

**Jackie Robinson Foundation**

**My 2 Sons: John (Seam Memorial) Scholarship**

**Leopold Education Project Scholarship**

**Beta Sigma Psi**

**Illinois Odd Fellows**

# Avoiding Scholarship Scams

- Don't pay money to look for scholarships
- Watch out for the warning signs of a scam:
  - “We'll do all the work for you!”
  - “We guarantee you a scholarship or your money back!”
  - “You can't find this information anywhere!”
  - “You're a scholarship finalist!” But you never applied . . .
- If you encounter a scam, let your counselor and others know.

# FAFSA's Role In Scholarships

- First step in applying for financial aid
- Takes about 30 minutes to complete
- FREE at [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov)
- Required for some scholarships – make sure you check scholarship requirements

# What Can I Do Now?

- Create a college planning calendar
- Begin looking for scholarships
  - Remember, nothing is too big or too small to be considered!
- Go on college tours/visits (consider virtual tours)
- Ask questions
- Check in with your school counselor

# Action Items

- Now that we laid down some groundwork on scholarships, here is an opportunity to create a “mini” résumé to help with your scholarship search!
- Optional activity:
  - Create an account at [www.CollegeGreenlight.com/ISAC](http://www.CollegeGreenlight.com/ISAC)
  - Review scholarships that appear on dashboard

# Contact Information

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