Scholarships 101

By College OPTIONS

Myth #1

O"The school I want to go to costs \$30,000/year, but I think I'll get a full ride."



Reality #1

It depends on the college to which you apply. If you are an average applicant, you will likely not get much merit aid.

Even if you are in the top 10%, you will probably not get a "full ride."



Strategy #1

- Apply to schools where you would be in top 10% of applicants and/or honors programs.
- Fill out the FAFSA (or CA DREAM Application).



Chance of Winning Scholarships by GPA*

00.0-1.9: 5.7%

02.0-2.4: 7.1%

02.5-2.9: 9.5%

03.0-3.4: 10.7%

03.5-4.0: 18.7%

*2011 study by publisher of Fastweb of 2007-08 scholarships

Myth #2

o"Scholarships are only for athletes or minority students or poor students or (fill in the blank) students, and that's not me."



Reality #2

OScholarships are from private donors. They can attach whatever criteria they want to the money.



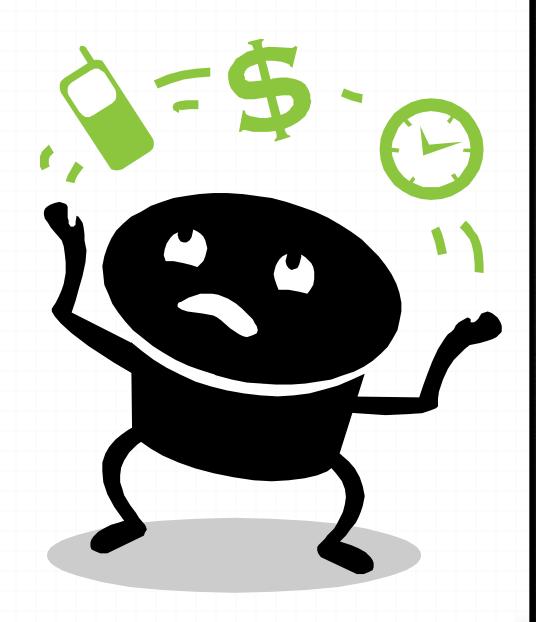
Strategy #2

- Apply for all scholarships for which you are eligible.
- O Do not spend time on applications for scholarships you are not qualified for.



Myth #3

o"It takes too
much time to
apply, and this
scholarship is
only worth \$250
anyway."



Reality #3.1

o"Only \$250"?!?!

4 hours invested in a \$250scholarship is \$62.50/hour!!



Reality #3.2

OThe first few applications take a lot of time, but after the first few applications, you have the majority of the info you need for all future applications.



Strategy #3

Get prepared with a Student Involvement Chart* and several standard essay responses that can be customized.



*Available on College OPTIONS' website

Myth #4

•We aren't going to bother filling out the FAFSA. We know we won't qualify for anything, so why waste the time?



New to the FAFSA?

Start A New FAFSA

Returning User?

- Make a correction
- · Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

Login

www.fafsa.gov

Reality #4

- Of you and your parents have your current (or previous) year's taxes in front of you, it takes about 20-30 minutes to fill out the FAFSA.
- Also, life can change dramatically. FAFSA is free "insurance."



Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



New to the FAFSA?

Start A New FAFSA

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Strategy #4



PROUD SPONSOR of the AMERICAN MIND." Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Home









SEARCH Español

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⊘Fill out the FAFSA!!!

Between January 1 and March 2nd. This year and EVERY YEAR you are in college.

Best-Practice Strategies

- OGet prepared and stay ready
 - Student Involvement Chart*
 - Prepare essays*
 - Ask for letters of rec NOW
 - Save copy of EVERY application
 - Track scholarships submitted

Student Involvement Chart



Student Involvement

Award or Honor	Description of Award or Honor	Award or Honor	Date
Award of Fiorior Description		Type (Academic or Other)	Received MO/YR

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES							
Activity	Description of Activity (Note any leadership positions.)	Ye 9	Year(s) of Involvement 9 10 11 12			Hours per week	Weeks per
			T	Τ-	1	week	year
				-			
				-	-		

Organization	Description of Service or Work (Note any leadership positions.)	Year(s) of Involvement 9 10 11 12			Hours per week	Weeks pe year
					cer	year

Best-Practice Strategies for the Essay

- Brainstorm first
- OGive examples and be specific
- It's about YOU
- Get feedback
- Proofread
- Tailor responses to match intent of scholarship provider

Best-Practice Strategies

- Research, research, research
 - List created by high school
 - <u>www.fastweb.com</u> scholarship search engine
- You should apply for EVERY scholarship for which you are eligible
- Ocheck with your parent's workplace for possible scholarships for employee offspring
- Create a professional email address and keep Facebook postings "clean"

Best-Practice Strategies

- Three applications you <u>must</u> fill out:
 - FAFSA (or CA DREAM Application)
 - For Cal Grant consideration: parents give permission to high school to forward Cal Grant GPA to California Student Aid Commission
 - College(s) to which you have applied
 - Board of Governor's (BOG) Fee Wavier at community colleges
 - Research scholarship application process at each college
 - Your high school's general scholarship application

Follow up

- Thank you notes
 - OTo letter writers
 - OTo interview committees
 - To scholarship providers
- Follow up documentation to scholarship providers
 - Class schedules
 - **O**Grades
 - Updated contact information

Extra help

- College OPTIONS Website
 - <u>www.collegeoptions.org</u> click on "Scholarships"

UPrep Senior Transition Class

Ms. Haworth