Books and Materials

Paying for College: Everything You Need to Maximize Financial Aid and Afford College
by Kalman A. Chany
A guide to controlling college costs offers advice on financial aid packages and educational loans.

Getting financial aid
by College Board
A latest edition of an annual reference provides insights into the specific challenges of today's economy while sharing step-by-step, simplified instructions for the FAFSA form and the College Board's CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE form, in a guide complemented by financial profiles for more than 3,000 schools.

The financial aid handbook: getting the education you want for the price you can afford
by Carol Stack
The Financial Aid Handbook is the only book families need to find the right college at the right price. This completely revised, up-to-date edition builds on the success of the original--the definitive, one-stop guide to the college selection and payment process, covering everything from basic timelines and tuition costs to predicting your scholarship award from colleges and taking ownership of student debt after graduation. Also available in Hoopla!

Online Library Resources

LearningExpress Library
The Job & Career Accelerator
section of this database contains a Scholarship Finder that allows you to locate and apply for scholarships. It also contains a School Finder section, test prep for entry exams, skill reviews, and assistance for writing essays, resumes, & preparing for interviews.

Scholarships, Fellowships & Loans: A Guide to Education-related Financial Aid Programs for Students and Professionals
Anthony Boussie, ed.
Provides comprehensive information on sources of education-related financial aid sponsored and administered by private organizations and companies. Covers a variety of programs in all educational areas, including area and ethnic studies, business, computer science, education, liberal arts, medicine, physical sciences, theology and religion, and more. Intended for students and others interested in education funding.

FREE Online Homework Help
HelpNow Featured Service: Live FAFSA Help
Get live help filling out your FAFSA application. Experts can assist with any application questions (e.g. which line to use from their tax returns). Experts will never request sensitive personally identifiable information. Available Monday-Thursday from 1PM-10PM.
Learn: Paying for College

Tips for Writing the Scholarship Essay

How to write a winning scholarship essay: including 30 essays that won over $3 million in scholarships by Gen S. Tanabe
This must-have resource is filled with practical advice and real-life examples to guide students through the entire scholarship application process, and features 30 previously awarded scholarship essays along with unique strategies for preparation.

HelpNow: Writing Lab
Writing Lab: HelpNow offers two types of writing assistance. Live Writing Assistance: Connect with an online tutor for expert writing assistance with our live help feature. Live help is particularly helpful during the initial stages of the writing process when you are working on the organizational and thematic features of your paper.

Intensive Writing Lab: For a more thorough analysis, simply select Writing Lab from the launch menu and submit your writing via our secure messaging feature. Within approximately 24 hours of submitting your paper, you will receive a detailed analysis of your paper in your message center inbox. Our writing experts are trained to focus their analysis on voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and organization.

Online Courses

Check out this course from Khan Academy about paying for college! It covers Financial Aid, Scholarships, Grants, Work Study, and Student Loans. This course may contain ads and its content does not reflect the views of the Metropolitan Library System.

LinkedIn Learning: Evaluating College as an Investment
Section 3 of this course is all about locating and leveraging scholarships to their fullest potential. Use your library card number to log in and your last name as the PIN code. If it asks for a library ID, use MLS.

Student Loans

You may need to take out some student loans to cover the rest of your tuition, fees, and textbooks/supplies. These will need to be paid back with interest, typically after you leave school.

Federal Student Loans: The U.S. Department of Education’s federal student loan program is the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program. Under this program, the U.S. Department of Education is your lender. To learn about these types of loans, check out studentaid.gov.

Private Student Loans: These are typically offered through a private lender such as a bank or credit union. Contact your lender for more information about these loans.

State & Federal Financial Aid

Oklahoma’s Promise: Oklahoma’s Promise offers qualified Oklahoma students an opportunity to earn a scholarship for college tuition.

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): The U.S. Department of Education’s office of Federal Student Aid provides more than $120 billion in financial aid to help pay for college or career school each year.

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