

Scholarships and Financial Aid



We would love to know who is attending. Please text Ms. Wolfe
256-348-8443 *name and high school you attend

HCS District College Counselors

www.hcscollegecounselorsinfo.weebly.com

[Facebook: HCS District College Counselors](#)

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Types of Financial Aid

- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Grants
- ▶ Loans
- ▶ Work Study



START HERE
GO FURTHER
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

* Reminder: FAFSA will open for 12th graders on Oct. 1 at www.fafsa.gov. Submit your application for 2021-2022.

Sources of Scholarships

- ▶ College
- ▶ Military
- ▶ National Organizations
- ▶ Local Organizations



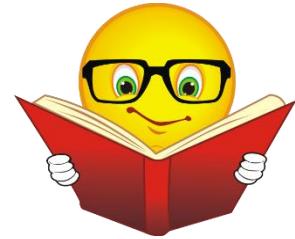
Scholarships from the College

- ▶ Merit (GPA/ACT)
- ▶ Performance (fine arts & athletics)
- ▶ Departmental
- ▶ Other



Merit Scholarships from the College

▶ Some colleges consider academic merit scholarships to be “automatic”. If you are accepted to the college and meet the requirements for ACT/GPA, you will receive the scholarship.



▶ Some colleges require a separate scholarship application for merit scholarships or competitive scholarships (AU, UA, UAB, UAH, Calhoun, etc.)

▶ December is the deadline at many colleges!

Scholarship Info in Naviance

The screenshot displays the Naviance Student dashboard. At the top left, the user is identified as 'Ian!' and is greeted with 'Welcome, Ian!'. A search bar for colleges is visible. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Courses, Colleges, Careers, and About Me. A dropdown menu is open, showing options: COLLEGES Home, COLLEGES I'm thinking about, COLLEGES I'm applying to, Find Your Fit, Research Colleges, Apply to Colleges, and Scholarships and Money. The 'Scholarships and Money' option is circled in red, with a red arrow pointing to it from the bottom right. Below the navigation, there is a 'Welcome to Junior Year!' banner with 'WELCOME BACK!' text and a 'Read more' button. To the right, a 'My Favorites' section lists various categories like 'COLLEGES I'm thinking about', 'COLLEGES I'm applying to', 'COURSES I'm thinking about', and 'CAREERS AND CLUSTERS I'm thinking about'.

What the list looks like in Naviance...

| | | | | | |
|--|-------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Elks Lodge #1648 Local Scholarship | 11/15 | \$1,000 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Elks Lodge Most Valuable Student Scholarship | 11/15 | Multiple awards \$1,000 - \$50,000 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Foot Locker Scholarship | 12/14 | \$20,000 | ✓ | | |
| Free Speech Essay Contest | 12/31 | Up to \$10,000 | | | ✓ |
| Gorgas Scholarship Competition | 12/21 | varies | ✓ | | |
| Harris Poll Scholarship | - | \$1000 | | | |
| Horatio Alger Scholarship | 10/25 | \$25,000 | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Huntsville Council of PTAs | 3/1 | \$500 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| International High School Essay Contest | 10/19 | \$5,000 | | | ✓ |
| Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship | 11/20 | Up to \$40,000 | ✓ | ✓ | |

Tips for a Strong Scholarship Application

- ▶ Develop your resume. Naviance Resume Builder tool is available.
- ▶ Most scholarships require an essay. Get someone to proofread your essay before submitting.
- ▶ Give teachers plenty of time to write recommendations
- ▶ Follow directions
- ▶ Submit your best work
- ▶ Keep up with Deadlines!



Searching for Scholarships Online

- ▶ Be prepared to invest time in “research” for scholarships for which you qualify
- ▶ www.ache.edu
- ▶ www.achievealabama.org
- ▶ www.cappex.com
- ▶ www.fastweb.com
- ▶ www.scholarships.com
- ▶ www.finaid.org
- ▶ National college search on Naviance through Sallie Mae

Federal Financial Aid

▶ FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

*Federal aid is money from the U.S. Department of Education that helps students pay for college/career/school expenses.

▶ Available October 1, 2020 for current seniors (You will need 2019 tax return information.)

▶ Check out the FAFSA4caster for an estimate

▶ www.fafsa.gov

Why Should I Complete the FASFA?

▶ To find out about federal aid programs for which you may qualify

▶ To determine how much aid you may receive

Pell Grant Max - \$6345/year

Federal Loan Max for students - \$5500/year

▶ Some colleges/scholarship programs require it

▶ Most athletic scholarships require it

▶ Many local and regional scholarships are open to students who qualify based on FAFSA results

Getting Started

- You can create an FSA ID at any point prior to starting the FAFSA.
- Both student and parent need an FSA ID
- Choose your username and password carefully – you will need to utilize this information for several years.
- Keep this information in a safe place!
- For each FSA ID, you will need:
 - Name and address
 - Social Security Number
 - Date of birth
 - E-mail address

FAFSA Application Information

Marital status of parents

Number of family members

Household income of the parent/guardian(s)

Child support paid/received

Income of the student

Assets (optional)



Taxes and the FAFSA

Taxes for both student/parent will be used

If you e-filed your taxes for 2019, you can link your taxes to your FAFSA by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.

This is the simplest option, and it results in fewer errors.

If you do not use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, you will need a copy of your 2019 tax return.

It is recommended to have all W-2 forms for student/parent available when applying

Our most common questions . . .

- ▶ I want to choose which parent information to share – is that OK?
- ▶ My stepparent will not be paying for my college. Do I still have to include his information?

Helpful Hints (based on experience)



-
- ▶ FAFSA for 12th graders is FAFSA 21-22
 - ▶ Keep student/parent information separate
 - ▶ Complete the process with electronic signature of BOTH parent and student
 - ▶ Utilize the Data Retrieval Tool (if at all possible)
 - ▶ Watch email for results and follow up on any next steps

What Happens After I Apply?

- ▶ Processing takes 3-5 days
- ▶ Email will notify you that your FAFSA has been processed or if there is an error, selected for verification, etc.
- ▶ Log in to view the Student Aid Report (SAR)
 - Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)
 - Information on aid for which you qualify
- ▶ Colleges receive your results
- ▶ Each college will provide a Financial Aid Package (usually in second semester).

Assistance in the Process

NACEE (North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence)

Senior Counselors and District College Counselors

Financial Aid Office at your college



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