



# Financial Aid 101

## Average FULL cost to attend...

- UC San Diego - \$25,608
- Chico State - \$17,552
- University of Southern California - \$59,842
- St. Mary's College - \$53,236
- Arizona State University - \$32,575
- University of Washington - \$40,135
- Sierra College - \$8657

# Ways to reduce the cost

- Opt to attend institutions in-state
- Attend a school closer to home to reduce travel expenses
- Live at home or with relatives
- Consult a financial planner to discuss tax breaks and options
- Look for schools that offer tuition discounts - WUE
- Attend community college then transfer
- Accelerating the pace of coursework
- AP tests

# How are Americans Paying for College?

- Help from Parents and Others 34%
  - Grants & Scholarships 31%
    - Student Loans 22%
- Student Income & Savings 13%

# The FAFSA

- This is a MUST
- May qualify you for state and federal grants
- Provides access to student loans with the best terms
- May qualify you for work study
- May qualify you for school specific financial aid.

# The FAFSA

- You may apply beginning October 1, 2016
- You **MUST** apply by March 2, 2017
- The sooner the better as some funds will run out
- Parent income tax information will be required.
- **FAFSA Workshop September 27 at 6:00pm in the RHS cafeteria.**



What should you be  
doing right now???



SCHOLARSHIPS!



# Scholarship Fact or Fiction

- Only the 4.0 gpa. students get scholarships.
  - FICTION – Scholarships have all sorts of different criteria.

# Scholarship Fact or Fiction

- There is a lot of money out there, going unawarded.
  - FICTION – Most scholarships are highly competitive and scholarship committees work hard to advertise their scholarships so that they receive plenty of applications to choose from.



# Scholarship Fact or Fiction

- Minorities can easily get several scholarships.
  - FICTION... You still have to apply and even though there are many scholarships out there for ethnic minorities, they too are highly competitive and often have additional qualifying criteria.



# Scholarship Fact or Fiction

I am not a minority and my parents make decent money. I don't qualify for any scholarships.

- FICTION... There are scholarships with all sorts of qualifying criteria. You just have to find them!

# The Truth

There are scholarships out there for just about everyone. There are many students fighting for that money, so you must jump in the mix!

**Here is how:**

Find scholarships that you meet the criteria for.

Apply.

Find more scholarships that you meet the criteria for.

Apply for those too.

Lather, Rinse, Repeat. ☺



# Military Scholarships

- ROTC
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Education Benefits
- Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant
- Student Loan Benefits
- Check with other veterans organizations



# Naviance Scholarship List

This is located under the “College” tab in Naviance

Mostly local or regional scholarships. New scholarships added to the list frequently, so check it often.



# Naviance

## National Scholarship Search

This is located under the “College” tab in Naviance

- Create a profile - Spend time creating your profile so that you get the best possible matches.
- Search a national database for scholarships that match your requirements



# Finding Scholarships Through Family

- Employers
- Insurance Companies
  - Military Service
  - Disabilities
- Clubs & Organizations
  - Church, Temple, etc.
- Professional Associations
  - Alumni Associations

# Finding Scholarships Through Universities

- Search the university's financial aid page.
- Read criteria carefully.
- Determine if the scholarship is competitive or automatic.
- Determine what is required to apply.
- Look closely at all deadlines, college app as well as financial aid.
- File the FAFSA (October) and/or CSS Profile where applicable.
- Look for departmental scholarships.

# Finding Scholarships Through Assist-a-Grad

- Over \$100,000 to class of 2016 graduates
- Open to RHS students only
- Locally sponsored – Now seeking sponsors!
- Apply in February
- Uses a common application
- Sponsors of scholarships select winners
- Announced at senior awards ceremony



# Finding Scholarships

- Military Scholarships - Now
- Naviance Scholarship List - Now
- Naviance National Scholarship Search - Now
  - Family – Now
- Colleges you are applying to - Now
  - Assist-a-grad - February



# Look for Scams

- "You're a finalist!" or "You've won!" a contest or scholarship you never entered. Be wary, especially if they ask you for a credit card or bank account number to hold your "winnings." Don't believe it. You must apply for scholarships first to receive them.
- "First come, first served." While you do need to get your application in before the scholarship deadlines, the "first come, first served" rule does not apply to scholarships.

# Look for Scams

- "It's guaranteed!" Scholarship searches can guarantee search results. They can't guarantee you the scholarship money.
- "We'll do the work for you ... for a fee." The fee may be nominal and the offer may come from someone who sounds official. So make sure you do your research before paying anyone to do a search for you.



## Look for Scams

**NEVER PAY ANYONE TO  
APPLY FOR A  
SCHOLARSHIP.**

# Applying

- Be sure you're qualified
- Note deadlines
- Follow directions
- Secure letters of recommendation
- Order transcripts
- Edit the essay
- Stay organized and plan ahead



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## Then do it all again!

- Have a plan to apply for several scholarships. Set a goal.
- Spread them out over time.
- Remember – small scholarships add up. Think about the time it takes to apply. Is it worth the reward? How much do you make at work?
- Stay organized!!!