Scholarships – Info provided by Faith Lillemo

4 Categories of Financial Aid

1. Grants - money that is awarded to the student, usually because of financial need. Grants usually come from the federal or state government, and do not have to be paid back.
2. **Scholarships** - money that is awarded because of exceptional academic achievement, an outstanding talent or skill, and/or financial need. These do not have to be repaid.
3. Loans - borrowed money that must be repaid either while the student is in attendance or after graduation or both.
4. Work/Study - this term refers to the Federal College Work-Study Program but can also refer to other types of programs. Typically, students work 10-12 hours per week on campus.

Scholarships: There are thousands of scholarships out there, however, most have very specific eligibility criteria (high GPA, high test scores, excellent recommendations, leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, outstanding athletic abilities or skill. Special categories include: underrepresented minorities, international students, legacy students, early decision, and low income

Complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) www.fafsa.gov

- Need based grants available
- Need to fill out in order for student loan options to be available

VTAG (Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant) - Apply if planning to attend a private 4-year college in the state of Virginia. Currently $3400/year (Does not apply to Theology majors)

1. START EARLY.
2. **LARGER SCHOLARSHIPS ARE USUALLY AWARDED BY THE INDIVIDUAL COLLEGES.**
3. PRIVATE COLLEGES ARE OFTEN MORE GENEROUS IN AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS.
4. APPLY FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS
5. **BE AWARE OF DEADLINES;** THEY ARE OFTEN INFLEXIBLE.
6. SEARCH INTERNET SITES.

7. KEEP A HARD COPY OF EVERY ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR YOUR RECORDS.
8. DON'T PAY MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES.
9. USE A CALENDAR.

Check:

1. **Research scholarship options at colleges of interest.**
2. **Fastweb.com** - enter your info and they will email potential scholarships to you
3. Scholly - myscholly.com
4. **Finaid.org** - helps you understand various types of financial aid, to-do lists, good info
5. Military - ROTC scholarships for Air Force, Army, Navy, & Marines
6. Scholarships through your workplace or your parents workplace
7. Local organizations, clubs, high school and church
8. College/Financial Aid Advisor - www.lockwoodcollegeprep.com (free informative videos and optional services that cost $)
9. National Merit Scholarship (through taking PSAT Junior year and scoring very high)
10. Ethnicity based organizations
11. Organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest.
12. Careeronestop.org - U.S. Dept. of Labor's FREE online scholarship search
13. www.collegeboard.org (SAT home page)
14. www.act.org (ACT home page)
15. Studentaid.ed.gov
16. Resources for higher education in Virginia: www.vawizard.org / www.i-am-the-one.com / www.schev.edu