

Scholarships/Financial Aid...some facts:

- When juniors come to the CCC, wanting to begin searching for scholarships, I ask them what their grades are, how they are doing in school. The response is often “not as well as I should be”. Merit aid accounts for the largest percentage of scholarship aid. Most (not all) merit aid is awarded based upon a student’s grades.
- Institutional merit aid:
 - According to DebtAid.org, a report by the National Association of College and University Business Officers said that 88.9 percent of freshmen at private colleges received a grant from the institution in 2013-2014. The grants covered 53.5 percent of tuition and fees.
- Private sector/outside scholarships:
 - Only 4% of undergraduate, graduate and professional students (according to the National Center for Education Statistics at the US Department of Education) receive private sector scholarships, and the **average** amount received by those students is about \$1,600

General Guidelines/Suggestions:

1. Never pay to find scholarships
 1. There is an abundance of internet sites, and scams, related to scholarship searches
 2. Be wary of any that require you to pay to be matched with scholarships
 3. Be aware that most sites pass along and profit off of the sale of your personal information to other companies
 1. Often the feature is hidden, read the privacy policies closely
 4. Be strategic
 1. Scholarship applications take time, often for small amounts of money
 1. Weigh the time involved (essays, letters of recommendation) closely against the size of the applicant pool and the amount awarded
 2. Go local first
 1. Local scholarships generally have the smallest applicant pool

2. Source through your high school career/college center, or counselor, and local community foundation
3. Many high schools have a general application, which opens you up to a variety of smaller scholarships. One application, many scholarships! Ours is the Reno High General Scholarship, typically due the week before the holiday break.
3. Trade organizations/large companies
 1. If your parents are employed in a specific industry or for a large company (advertising specialty, Washoe County School District, Nevada Energy, etc.), there are often scholarships available within that industry or company to children of those working there
4. Institutional merit aid
 1. Institutional scholarships are often available on the school website, or on collegegreenlight.com
 2. Once admitted, call the school and ask if there are any other avenues to pursue grants or scholarships
5. Online resources:
 1. fastweb.com
 1. DON'T CHECK THE BOX "HELP US HELP YOU", as you will receive unnecessary emails from companies/colleges
 2. collegegreenlight.com
 1. Pull up the privacy policy on the dashboard/homepage and check the boxes that allow access to your personal information
 2. Great source for institutional aid at specific schools
 3. Your RHS College and Career Center
 1. Come in, introduce yourself, and fill out a scholarship-matching sheet. We will do our best to suggest scholarships that are in alignment with your interests and strengths