



# FINANCIAL AID

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## **ADVENTURES IN EDUCATION**

<http://www.aie.org/>

Although this site is sponsored by the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, there is an enormous wealth of information available to any student looking for funds. Once you identify yourself as a middle school student, high school student, or one of the other choices, you will find a variety of resources tailored to that group. You'll find information about college costs, applying for aid, a financial aid calendar, a variety of calculators, scholarships, careers, state education resources, and links to many other Internet sites. The content of this site is also available in Spanish.

## **BACK TO COLLEGE**

<http://www.back2college.com/>

While this site is especially tailored for those adults wanting to return to college, clicking on the Financial Aid link opens up information useful to any potential student. Some of its features include links to scholarships for re-entry students, free scholarship searches, answers to frequently asked questions, and financial aid calculators. There are online discussion forums, opportunities to "Ask The Experts," and a free newsletter.

## **COLLEGE ANSWER provided by Sallie Mae**

<http://www.collegeanswer.com/>

Sallie Mae, a provider of education funding, manages student loans for "more than seven million borrowers." It was originally a government sponsored entity, but it is now a private company and is no longer tied to the federal government. Sallie Mae describes this site as "The Planning for College Destination," and there is a full range of information presented to help students through planning to attend college, selecting schools, navigating the admission process, paying for college, deciding which college to attend, and understanding the lending process. There's also a scholarship search tool and downloadable library of information that requires free registration.

## **ESTUDENT LOAN**

<http://www.estudentloan.com/>

Visitors to this site can get comparisons of various student loans and lenders along with a good overview of different types of loans and securing financial aid for college.

## **FAFSA ON THE WEB**

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

This is the website to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There's step-by-step information on the entire process, a Federal School Code Search tool, and a list of federal and state financial aid deadlines.

## **FASTWEB**

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

This site has information on choosing a college, applying for scholarships, and finding internships and jobs. There is a free online scholarship search available that matches a student's profile with a database of 1.3 million scholarships. Visitors must first create a free profile before using the database.

## **FEDERAL STUDENT AID, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

<http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/>

The federal government provides assistance on preparing for and funding education beyond high school on this site. Students can access information on federal student aid programs as well as create a "MyFSA." This account allows users to create a profile that can be used to match appropriate career fields, colleges, and scholarships. Some of the profile information can be automatically transferred to certain fields in the FAFSA form. There are links to other pertinent websites as well as a good "Frequently Asked Questions" area. You can also find out what you need to know about repaying student loans. This site is also available in Spanish.

## **FINAID! The SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid**

<http://www.finaid.org/>

Students and parents will find information here on almost every kind of aid available-loans, military aid, federal and state aid, scholarships. There's information about all kinds of specific aid-for international students, for disabled, students, for older students, for minority students, and more. There are a variety of calculators to project college costs, pages devoted to educators looking for information, and frequently asked questions. Click on the "site map" to really see all that's included here.

## **GOCOLLEGE**

<http://www.gocollege.com/>

GoCollege brings "useful, unbiased, and up-to-date college related information to students, parents, and education professionals." Information is divided into four main categories: admissions, financial aid, education options, and college survival. Check out the blog for additional insights into the college process and links for voter registration information and filing taxes.

## **ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

<http://www.collegezone.com/>

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission provides resources on their College Zone site for parents and students of all ages. There's information on the financial aid process, as well as specific details about aid available from the federal government and the state of Illinois. There's also a link to Illinois Mentor, an "interactive online resource providing career planning, virtual campus tours, planners to assist in meeting college admission requirements, online admission applications, information about financial aid, and the ability to communicate with your counselors directly through e-mail."

## **KNOWHOW2GO**

<http://www.knowhow2goillinois.org/>

The American Council on Education, Lumina Foundation and the Ad Council launched the national knowhow2go campaign to encourage middle school students to think about college. The website provides a framework for students and their mentors to formulate a plan for college preparations. The Illinois Mentor link provides information and on-line campus tours of 145 Illinois colleges and has tools to allow easy comparisons among colleges.

## **MAPPING YOUR FUTURE**

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/>

A website designed to make college planning easier, Mapping Your Future provides specific resources for high school, undergraduate, graduate, and adult students as well as for parents. Links will lead you to information about college admissions, standardized tests, FAFSA, federal student loans, budgeting, scholarships, and much more.

## **SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS**

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/scholarship/>

The Federal Trade Commission uses this site as a caution to students and parents about scholarship scams.

## **STUDENT GATEWAY TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT**

<http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/Public>

The federal government provides information on educational and financial resources and opportunities from all branches of the federal government. In addition to information about financial aid, preparing for college and the usual topics, this site provides information about studying abroad, summer internships, volunteer opportunities, and government databases. The Military Service link provides a extensive information on G.I. and veterans' benefits, and funding programs offered through all branches of the military.

## **Looking in the library?**

We have a variety of books with information about financing a college education. There are books in our reference collection at **R378.3**, and look for books you can check out in our circulating collection in the same call number—**378.3**. Please be sure to ask for assistance; we're happy to help!