

Maryland Higher Education Commission



# **MONEY FOR COLLEGE**

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**A MARYLAND GUIDE ON HOW TO IDENTIFY AND  
OBTAIN STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**



# TYPES AND SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE

## Types of Aid

- ✓ Grants
- ✓ Scholarships
- ✓ Loans
- ✓ Work-Study

## Sources of Aid

- ✓ Federal
- ✓ State
- ✓ Institution
- ✓ Private
- ✓ Other



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Office of Student Financial Assistance

[www.mhec.state.md.us](http://www.mhec.state.md.us)

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# HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- ✓ Research financial assistance program eligibility requirements
- ✓ Do not miss deadlines!!
- ✓ Complete all required forms to apply for financial assistance – *starting with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid*
- ✓ Follow-up to ensure all documents are complete
- ✓ Check your email and source of contact for any updates

***Learn as much as you can about financial assistance opportunities from all sources of aid.***

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# FILE THE FAFSA

- ☑ Complete and file the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** – FAFSA  
Must be filed each year, as soon as possible after **January 1**
  - ✓ File on-line at **[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)**
  - ✓ Complete all items
  - ✓ Contact a high school or financial aid counselor for assistance if needed
  
- ☑ Parents and students must apply for a Personal Identification Number (P.I.N.) to sign electronically **\*ALERT\* PROCESS CHANGE**
  
- ☑ List all schools you would like to attend including at least one Maryland Institution
  
- ☑ Submit by **MARCH 1** each year!

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# DON'T FORGET

- ✓ To list at least one Maryland institution on the FAFSA to be considered for Maryland State aid
- ✓ Make sure that you receive a confirmation page after the FAFSA is submitted
- ✓ Student's name entered on the FAFSA should be the same as on the Social Security card
- ✓ Know your citizenship status
- ✓ We encourage the use of the IRS retrieval button
- ✓ It is ok to use estimated tax information if the most recent tax returns have not yet been filed (e.g. for the 2015-2016 FAFSA, it is ok to use 2012 tax information until 2014 return is filed). Don't forget to update the FAFSA once the most recent tax return have been processed by the IRS

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# STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR) EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

- ☑ After the FAFSA is filed, you will be sent a Student Aid Report (SAR) via email
  
- ☑ Review the SAR carefully to ensure all information is correct
  - ☑ Make corrections, if necessary, and *resubmit the application. You will receive a corrected SAR*
  
  - ☑ *Send a copy of your corrected SAR to OSFA and notify the post secondary institution (if accepted) if changes made after March 15*
  
- ☑ The SAR will provide your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – it's a number used to determine your eligibility for student financial aid based on your FAFSA information
  
- ☑ The EFC combined with your college's Cost of Attendance (COA) determines your eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant and other need-based aid, including State aid

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# **COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)**

- ☑ **Tuition and fees**  
*(registered classes/credits)*
- ☑ **Room and board**  
*(room and meal plan charges)*
- ☑ **Books and supplies**  
*(cost of books at the institution's book store)*
- ☑ **Transportation**  
*(avg. local cost of gas, public transportation)*
- ☑ **Personal expenses**  
*(toiletries, misc. cost)*
- ☑ **Child Care (if applicable)**  
*(avg. cost of Child Care)*



*The State of Maryland includes only tuition/and room/board in its COA calculation, but the U.S. Department of Education uses all components above.*

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# CALCULATION OF FINANCIAL NEED- FEDERAL MODEL

**COA minus EFC minus PELL (if eligible for this need-based federal grant)  
= Financial Need**

**Example:**

**COA** **\$10,500**

(Tuition & fees, Room & Board, Books & Supplies, Transportation Costs, Personal Expenses, Child Care)

**EFC** **- 3,000**

(An index number that helps the institution determine need base aid)

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**Need** **\$7,500**

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# BILL TO EFC COMPARISON

## EFC: 3,000

### School A

Tuition & Fees	\$ 5,000
Room & Board	\$ 2,500

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**Estimated Bill \$ 7,500**

### Miscellaneous Expenses

Transportation	\$ 1,000
Personal Expenses	\$ 1,000
Child Care	\$ -
Books & Supplies	\$ 550

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**Cost of Attenance \$ 10,050**

### School B

Tuition & Fees	\$ 5,000
Room & Board	\$ 2,500
Books & Supplies	\$ 550

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**Estimated Bill \$ 8,050**

Transportation	\$ 1,000
Personal Expenses	\$ 1,000
Child Care	\$ -

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**Cost of Attenance \$ 10,500**

These items are calculated by the institutions as averages, since a student's bill vary

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# APPLYING FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID- MARYLAND COLLEGE AID PROCESSING SYSTEM (MD CAPS)

- ✓ MDCAPS is the State of Maryland financial aid system
- ✓ You must create a Student Login Profile and then click on the activation link in the message sent to your email account, which was provided when you created your account in MD CAPS
- ✓ To create a profile, log onto <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>
- ✓ The MDCAPS account can be created at any time

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# MARYLAND COLLEGE AID PROCESSING SYSTEM (MD CAPS)

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the login page for the Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS). The browser's address bar shows the URL: https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us/MDCAPS/login.aspx?c=-8588125732105644558&Re. The page header features the Maryland state logo, the text "MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION", and the "MDCAPS MARYLAND COLLEGE AID PROCESSING SYSTEM" logo. A "Help" link is visible in the top right. The main content area contains a white box with the following text:

**Please identify yourself with a valid username and password.**  
By logging in, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to the User Agreement.  
**Students:**  
Have you:

1. Created a MD CAPS student log-in (below)? This action will create your student account.
2. Clicked the link in the new activation email sent to you after creating your account?
3. Checked your spam filter if you didn't see the activation email in your inbox?

Once you have done steps 1-3, you are ready for your first login.  
If you are still having login problems, please send an email with your name, date of birth and the nature of your problem to [osfamail@mhec.state.md.us](mailto:osfamail@mhec.state.md.us).

User Name:   
Password:

[Create a Student Login](#)  
[Forgot your username or password?](#)

To return to the main page of the MHEC web site, [click here](#).  
Note: This site requires the use of JavaScript and Cookies. Please be sure to enable JavaScript and Cookies in your web browser in order to access the full functionality of the site.

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# HOWARD P. RAWLINGS PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- **Educational Assistance Grant**
- **Guaranteed Access Grant**



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# EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANT: UP TO \$3,000 ANNUALLY

- ☑ **New and renewal students must file the FAFSA by March 1 each Year and list at least one Maryland institution on the FAFSA application**
- ☑ **Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) will automatically receive your FAFSA information electronically *if submitted on or before March 1<sup>st</sup>***
- ☑ **Students must demonstrate financial need**
  - ✓ Students with the greatest need and lowest EFC are awarded first
- ☑ **Students must enroll as full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates at a 2-year or 4-year college or university in Maryland**
- ☑ **Parents and students must be Maryland residents**
- ☑ **Students can not receive this award and the Guaranteed Access Grant**
- ☑ **Students have two weeks to accept the grant if awarded**

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# **GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT: UP TO \$16,500 ANNUALLY**

- Apply as a high school senior**
  
- Must submit a Guaranteed Access Grant application and FAFSA**
  - Suggested by **March 1**
  - must list at least one Maryland institution on the FAFSA
  
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative, unweighted high school GPA**
  
- Must complete a college preparatory program**
  
- Students must have a high-school diploma**



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# **GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT: UP TO \$16,500 ANNUALLY**

- Students must enroll as full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates at a 2-year or 4-year college or university in Maryland**
- Parents and students must be Maryland residents**
- Students have two weeks to accept the grant if awarded**
- Students can not receive the Guaranteed Access Grant and the Educational Assistance Grant.**

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# LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS (SENATORIAL AND DELEGATE)

- **Senatorial Scholarships**
- **Delegate Scholarships**



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# LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS (SENATORIAL AND DELEGATE)

**All students may apply:**

- ✓ High school seniors
- ✓ Undergraduates
- ✓ Graduate students
- ✓ Traditional & non-traditional aged students
- ✓ Career or technical school students

**May be used for:**

- ✓ Full-time or part-time enrollment
- ✓ Maryland residents only
- ✓ Maryland institutions  
(may be used out of state in rare circumstances)

**Find your local representative at [www.mdelect.net](http://www.mdelect.net)**



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# **SENATORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: \$400 AND UP ANNUALLY**

- File FAFSA by March 1**
- Demonstrate financial need**
- Awards are renewable for an additional 3 years**
- Contact Senator for application procedures**
- Student must accept the award within two weeks of notification**
- You must have taken the SAT/ACT if required by the institution**

**Note: Senators have the option to award; some do not select recipients but put their funds into other programs administered by OSFA**

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# DELEGATE SCHOLARSHIP: \$200 AND UP ANNUALLY

- ☑ **Contact Delegates for application procedures**
  
- ☑ **Must apply each year for an award; awards are not renewable**
  
- ☑ **FAFSA may not be required if awarded by the delegate.**  
*A FAFSA will be required if the awards are made by the Office of Student Financial Assistance*
  
- ☑ **Note: Delegates have the option to award; some do not select recipients but put their funds into other programs administered by OSFA**

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**NEW PROGRAMS!!!!**

# **2 + 2 Transfer Scholarship Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Exemption**

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# 2 + 2 TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

- ✓ Resident of Maryland
- ✓ Be enrolled at a Maryland community college
- ✓ Maintain a cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale while student is enrolled at a Maryland community college
- ✓ Have earned an associate's degree from a Maryland community college by the end of the semester in which the applicant plans to transfer
- ✓ Be accepted for admission in a degree program at a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education in Maryland
- ✓ Intend to enroll in a 4-year public or private nonprofit institution of higher education in Maryland in order to complete a bachelor's degree program
- ✓ Enroll as a full-time student at a 4-year Maryland institution by the fall semester following completion of the associate's degree
- ✓ Students required to register with the selective service system, must be in compliance with the registration requirement.
- ✓ File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

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# UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH EXEMPTION

- ☑ **Child or youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian and is a homeless child or youth, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.**
  
- ☑ **When determining whether a youth is an unaccompanied homeless youth, a financial aid administrator must verify that the youth qualifies as an independent student under the Federal College Cost Reduction and Access Act.**

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# UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH EXEMPTION

## *Other eligibility Requirements:*

**Students classified as unaccompanied homeless youth must also:**

- Be enrolled as a candidate for a vocational certificate, associate's degree or bachelor's degree at a public institution of higher education on or before their 25th birthday.
  
- Filed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1st each year.

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# CAREER-BASED PROGRAMS

- ▣ Charles W. Riley Firefighter, Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship
- ▣ Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants (MLARP)
- ▣ Nurse Support Program II - Hal and Jo Cohen Graduate Nursing Faculty Scholarship and Living Expenses Grant
- ▣ Tuition Reduction for Non-Resident Nursing Students
- ▣ Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program
- ▣ Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP)
- ▣ Maryland Dent-Care Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MDC-LARP)
- ▣ John R. Justice Grant Program

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# UNIQUE POPULATION AID

- ▣ **Jack F. Tolbert Memorial Student Grant Program**
  - ▣ **Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship & Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program**
  - ▣ **Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship**
  - ▣ **Tuition Waiver for Foster Care Recipients**  
**\*UPDATES\***
  - ▣ **Tuition Waiver for Maryland National Guard**
  - ▣ **Tuition Waiver for Students with Disabilities**
- Foster care tuition and fee waiver is now applied first towards the students tuition and fee charges.
  - Resided in an out-of-home placement on his or her 13th birthday and was placed into guardianship or adopted out of an out-of-home placement after his or her 13th birthday; or
  - Been the younger sibling of a child who meets the qualifications stated either in 1 or 2 and was placed into guardianship or adopted concurrently out of an out-of-home placement by the same guardianship or adoptive family.

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# FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☑ **Apply early for Maryland State Aid – *Complete and submit the FAFSA each year prior to the March 1 deadline***
- ☑ **Know deadlines at the colleges and universities to which you are applying**
- ☑ **Complete all required forms to apply for financial assistance and follow up about your awards**
- ☑ **Apply for as many grants and scholarships as possible**
- ☑ **Remember, parents and students must be Maryland residents for the State of Maryland financial aid awards**
- ☑ **Seek advice from financial aid professionals**

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# FINANCIAL AID TO-DO LIST



1. Understand the deadlines for awards:

Federal  
State  
Institution  
Private

2. File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
[www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov)
3. Contact the State and institution to follow up and ensure that no additional information is needed. *Don't forget to check your MDCaps account for awards and updates!*
4. Continue to apply for private sources of financial aid

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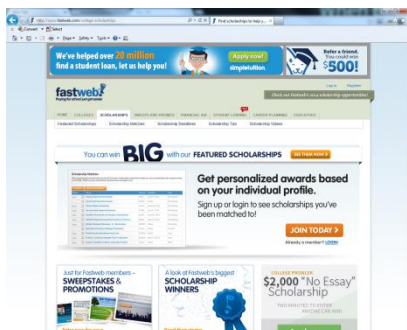
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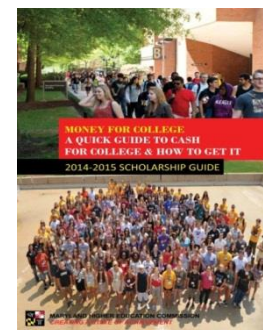
# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION



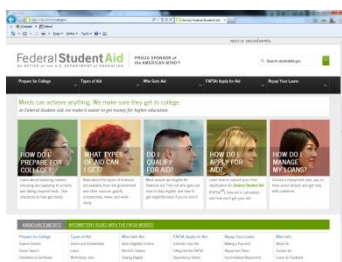
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[www.skills.maryland.gov](http://www.skills.maryland.gov)



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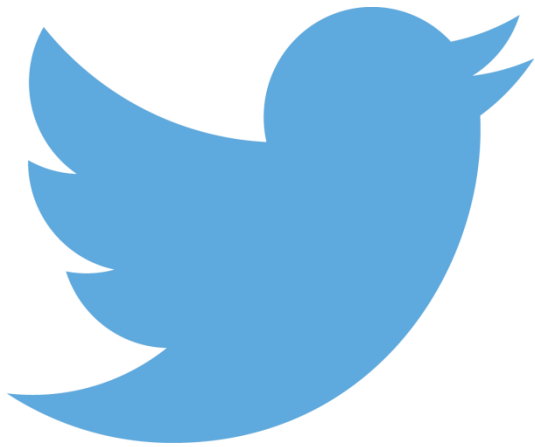
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**Maryland Higher Education Commission**  
**Office of Outreach and Grants Management**  
**and**  
**Office of Student Financial Assistance**

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- ☑ Toll free number: 1-800-974-0203
- ☑ E-mail: [osfamail@mhec.state.md.us](mailto:osfamail@mhec.state.md.us)

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