



Scholarships and Financial Aid

Undergraduate scholarships are forms of aid that help students pay for their education. Unlike student loans, scholarships do not have to be paid back.

Generally, scholarships are reserved for students with special qualifications, such as academic (merit), athletic or artistic talent or fit other criteria as set by the scholarship company. Awards are also available for students who are interested in particular fields of study, who are members of an underrepresented groups, who live in certain areas of the country or who demonstrate financial need etc.

Academic Common Market

This is a tuition-savings program for college students in the 16 SREB member states who want to pursue degrees that are not offered by their in-state institutions. Students can enroll in out-of-state institutions that offer their degree program and pay the institution's in-state tuition rates. For more information visit www.sreb.org

State Funded Scholarships- HOPE, Zell Miller, HOPE Grant and Zell Miler Grant

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship is available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship provides money to assist students with their educational costs of attending a HOPE eligible college in Georgia. See details on eligibility and award amounts at www.gafutures.org. Create an account at gafutures.org and track the HOPE GPA.

Academic Requirements

HOPE Scholarship requires a 3.0+ HOPE GPA at the time of graduation as calculated by HOPE. *2.99 is not acceptable.*

Zell Miller Scholarship requires a 3.7+ HOPE GPA and a 1200 (CR+M) on the SAT on a single testing or 26 Composite on the ACT. GPA is calculated by HOPE. *3.69 is not acceptable.*

HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant-no high school gpa requirement. This program is for students seeking a technical certificate or diploma.

Rigor Class of 2019 needs to take **four academic courses** that meet rigor requirement. Visit www.cambridgecounseling.com/hope-rigor-courses-cambridge-specif for a complete list of CHS rigor courses.

Merit Aid and General Scholarships

Q: How do I search for merit aid?

A: Each college will list their scholarship on their Financial Aid or Scholarship page. Check with each college to see their process for applying and their deadline. Also check www.meritaid.com.

Q: Do I have to pay for scholarship searches? How can I search for scholarships?

A: You should never have to pay for scholarship searches. Here are a few free recommended sites:

www.cambridgecounseling.com/scholarship	www.fastweb.com
www.fafsa.ed.gov	www.finaid.org
	www.scholarships.com

Dual Enrollment Program

Allows students to take college level coursework for credit towards both high school and college graduation requirements. It is available fall, spring and summer terms. The tuition, books and fees are paid by the state. Deadline to apply for Fall semester is March 31st. Check with specific colleges on the admissions requirements etc.

Senior Year Checklist Summer

Take part in activities that continue to enhance your college and scholarship applications; i.e., volunteering, jobs, passion pursuits

Narrow down your college list

Visit colleges

Get to work on admission essays

Fall Semester

Take charge in your extracurricular activities and continue to demonstrate leadership

Ask teachers and counselors for recommendations and provide them with materials and deadlines. Give all parties 15 school days to complete recommendations and forms

Parents should prepare to complete the CSS/Profile for financial aid as early as November if you plan on applying to private colleges. Visit www.collegeboard.org for information

Order and send official ACT or SAT scores and your high school transcript to all the colleges

Submit all application materials before deadlines

Confirm materials have been received by colleges, including letters of recommendation, official scores, transcripts, etc.

Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or after October 1 (the earlier, the better) at fafsa.ed.gov

Spring Semester

Apply to any additional colleges you are still considering

Continue to keep up your grades as you wait to hear decisions from schools

Kick scholarship search into full gear

Visit colleges to which you have been accepted if you still need help making a decision

Check financial aid award letters and speak to college Financial Aid and Admissions Officers about the offers

Decide on a college and send the Enrollment Confirmation Docs no later than May 1