



POPE FINANCIAL AID CHEAT SHEET



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

If you wish to be considered for need based financial aid in **any** form (i.e. Pell Grant, Student Loans, Work Study or even college need based money) you should complete the FAFSA. If a student is considering out of state schools, the FAFSA is especially important. If you do so, there are no other forms required to apply for the HOPE Scholarship. Apply at www.fafsa.gov. By filling out the FAFSA, you determine your Expected Family Contribution, or EFC, which is the amount of money the government believes you can pay toward college tuition. The FAFSA is available starting Oct. 1 of the senior year. Some aid is first come, first served, so don't delay!

Federal Student Aid Information

Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov for general and comprehensive information put together by the US Department of Education about funding your education beyond high school. Included on this website are **FAFSA4caster** (which estimates your EFC prior to senior year, which can tell you the type and amount of aid you may be eligible to receive), college searches, scholarship searches, timelines, planners, college savings calculator, and MUCH more.

College Raptor-<https://www.collegeraptor.com/>

College Raptor offers a students the ability to build a list based on preferences as well as a family's EFC (Use the FAFSA4caster above to determine EFC). The personalized list will include expected debt after 4 years as well as annual cost to a student/family.

HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, and HOPE Grant

Students planning to attend a Georgia college, university, or technical college have two options for applying for the HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, or HOPE Grant. You only have to choose one of these options:

1. **Complete the FAFSA** (see above)
OR
2. **Complete the GSFAPPS** available on www.gafutures.org. This application is **ONLY** for HOPE funds and is not for any other type of financial aid

www.GAFutures.org

This website was created as a "one-stop-shop" for students in Georgia seeking information about planning, applying, and paying for college. Students who create an account can fill out the FAFSA, GSFAPPS, and many public Georgia college applications through this comprehensive website. Students can also view their HOPE GPA calculation! You can reduce the time it takes to complete this form because it pre-fills information that you've already entered. A general scholarship search is also available.

CSS/Financial Aid Profile (<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>)

Many private colleges require additional information through the completion of this financial profile in addition to the FAFSA.

Naviance <http://connection.naviance.com/popehs>

This is one of your best resources for local scholarships. Click on the College tab and click on Scholarship List under Scholarships. We **HIGHLY** encourage searching here first as we always have several that pertain to Cobb students only, which significantly decreases the competition! Naviance also offers a national search

Pope College Planning Toolkit <http://tinyurl.com/popetoolkit>

Many of our favorite college planning resources, including lots of financial aid and scholarship links.

College Financial Aid Pages

Every college provides information about their own specific scholarships, grants, etc. The college is probably the best source of money and if you do your homework, you can maximize the financial awards, even for private and out-of-state colleges! Consider this – a student is more likely to receive merit \$\$ from a school where they fit into the top 25% of applicants versus a reach school. Don't expect much merit \$\$ from a school into which you are only *hoping* to be admitted – they save those funds for students they are courting!! See www.thecollegesolution.com and www.diycollegerankings.org for **great** tips about strategizing for college \$\$.

www.Fastweb.com, www.Scholarship.com, www.Collegeboard.com, <http://jlvcollegecounseling.com>, www.cappex.com

These are some popular scholarship search engines (there are *many* others). Students are asked to answer a large multitude of questions about themselves and the engine compiles scholarships based on matching criteria. Hint – if you sign up for these types of searches, use a separate email address that you use only for these – you might get some advertisements which help pay for the use of these sites (aka SPAM). Also consider aiming your search for scholarships \$2,000 or under, they will have less applicants!