



REACHING THE SUMMIT OF FINANCIAL SUCCESS IN COLLEGE

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LET'S START FROM THE GROUND UP

Cost of Attendance and the FAFSA



THE COST OF ATTENDANCE LET'S YOU SEE WHAT TO EXPECT

COA ALSO = LIMIT TO TOTAL AID YOU CAN RECEIVE!

It is also meant to be used as a general budgeting tool. Helping you plan for all costs you may be responsible for in college.

- Ex: If you have your own car, what is the cost of gas to and from school?

Average COA for in-state: FSW = \$18,803; FGCU = \$25,162; USF = \$26,516

GET YOUR GEAR TOGETHER! IT IS TIME TO CLIMB

The COA lets you have an idea, but build your own budget of your actual expenses so you are caught off guard.

The FAFSA IS YOUR FOUNDATION FOR FINANCIAL AID.

Why?

You need it for outside scholarships.





COMPLETING YOUR FAFSA - YOUR #1 PRIORITY!

- Needed for every school year you wish to attend.
- Available December 1st for use next Fall 2025
- Early submission = greatest opportunity
- Don't self-reject
- Don't assume you don't qualify for aid
- FAFSA required for scholarship options

A person is snowboarding down a steep, snow-covered mountain slope. The snowboarder is wearing dark winter gear and is in a dynamic, crouched position. The background shows a vast, snowy mountain range under a clear blue sky. The image is oriented vertically on the page.

AVOID COMMON FAFSA MISTAKES

- Not using student FSA ID to start the FAFSA
- Not reading definitions & questions carefully
- Entering incorrect information
- Not reporting required information
- Not signing the FAFSA
- Not asking a financial aid specialist for help!

NAVIGATING THE FOREST OF SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Scholarships are everywhere.
2. Focus on local, school, club, and community based.
3. Focus on niche scholarships. (Ex: for students of different ancestry, or unique hobbies and skills)
4. Talk to your parents about scholarships through their employer (or yours!)
5. Apply early!! 25-26 Scholarships open October 2024 and many close by February 2025
6. Reapply EVERY YEAR.



SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY WRITING TIPS

- Plan ahead
 - Consider your audience
 - Follow instructions!
 - Choose a topic of interest
 - Don't recreate the wheel if you don't have to
 - Write a strong introduction
 - Create an outline before writing the body
- Connect through emotion
 - Use examples from real life
 - Keep it positive
 - Create a strong conclusion
 - Proofread & ask for help
 - Use your resources

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE TAKING LOANS

How to Calculate Interest on a Student Loan

To find how much you'll pay in interest for a certain period, follow these steps:



$$\text{Interest Rate} \div 365 \times \text{Your Balance} \times$$
$$\text{Number of days since last payment} = X$$

*Subsidized loan interest is paid for by the government. You will not have it accrue interest until *after* you are done with school

*Unsubsidized loans will follow this rule immediately on payout of educational loan

And into the snowbank it goes...

#	Duration (Years)	Days	Capitalized Interest
1	$4.5 \times 360 =$	$1620 \times 0.68 =$	1101.60
2	$3.5 \times 360 =$	$1260 \times 0.68 =$	856.80
3	$2.5 \times 360 =$	$900 \times 0.68 =$	612.00
4	$1.5 \times 360 =$	$540 \times 0.68 =$	367.20
			<u>2937.60</u>

Note: Daily Interest $5000 \times 0.05 / 365 = 0.68$ is rounded to nearest cent.

CHECK IN WITH US! WE ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Follow up matters

- Do we have your FAFSA and scholarships?
 - Are there any issues that need to be addressed?
- Do you understand your aid and the rules to receive it?
- Are there any new scholarships out there?
- Are you fully covered and will a withdraw affect your aid?

***Do not wait till the last minute to ask these questions!!


www.fsw.edu/calendars






LET'S CHILL AND TALK

www.fsw.edu/financialaid

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