



# Finding the Money

## Understanding Financial Aid For High School Seniors and Families

**Howard Community College**  
**Financial Aid Services**  
**Fall 2017**





# A College Education matters!

**Average annual earnings in 2015 for fulltime employees  
25 to 34 years old by level of educational attainment:**

Bachelor's degree	<b>\$59,124</b>
Associate's degree	\$41,496
High school diploma	<b>\$35,256</b>
No high school diploma	\$25,636

*\*Those with an Associates degree earned 25% more than those with a high school diploma.*

*\*Those with a Bachelor's degree earned almost **70% more** than those with a high school diploma.*

Source: [http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_chart\\_001.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm)





# Is cost a factor in choosing a college?

The College Board reports that the average annual tuition and fees by type of college is:

Private Colleges	\$ 32,410
Public 4 Year, Out of State	\$ 23,890
Public 4 Year, In state	\$ 9,410
Community College	\$ 3,440

*\*Other non-tuition expenses average another \$10k to \$15 per year.*



That's about **\$100,000** at a public, in-state 4-year college to live on campus and to earn a bachelor degree!

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/college-costs-faqs>



# Summary of Aid By Sources and Types

	Federal	State	College	Private
Grants	Pell Grant; SEOG Grant; <b>TEACH Grant</b>	MD EA & GA Grants; MD Part-Time Grant	College Grants	n/a
Scholarships	n/a	Senatorial/Delegate; Several occupation-based scholarships	<b>Donor Scholarships</b>	Private Scholarships
Loans	<b>Direct Loan Programs</b>	n/a	n/a	<b>Bank Loans</b>
Work-study	Federal Work-study	n/a	<b>Institutional Work- study</b>	n/a

*Note: Aid programs in red are not all need-based!*



# What Application Forms?

- **For Federal Aid, MD State Scholarships & College Need-Based Grants**

- **FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*)**

- *Some state scholarships may require an additional application. Please review the Maryland State Scholarship website!*

- **For Each College's Donor Scholarships**

- **The College's Scholarship Application, if they have one**

- *Some Schools require the College Board's "PROFILE" for institutional aid*

- **For Private Scholarships**

- Free scholarship search engines on the web
  - Apply to the source
    - *Your church, local community organizations, free scholarship search engines*

**\*So the bottom line is TWO FORMS are most important –  
the FAFSA and each college's Scholarship Application.**



# WHEN Should I Apply?

## for Fall 2018/ Spring 2019 Aid?

### 2018-2019 FAFSA *(for federal aid, MD state aid, and college need-based grant)*

- **For Federal Aid** - October 2017 through May/June 2019
- **For MD State Scholarships** - by March 1, 2018 – FINAL DEADLINE!
  - *Some MD State Scholarships have a separate application & deadline – check the MD State Scholarship website!*
- **For College Need-based Aid** – check the website for each college for their deadline!
  - *Please note that some private colleges may use the College Board's PROFILE application to award need-based college aid*

### College Scholarship Applications *(for college donor scholarships)*

- **For College Scholarships** – SEARCH the website for each college for their deadline!

The important deadlines are each college's deadline for the TWO FORMS that are most important –  
**The FAFSA and each college's Scholarship Application.**



## A Little Financial Aid “To-Do” Chart

	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4	College 5
Does the college use the FAFSA to award need-based college grant aid?					
<b>What’s the college’s FAFSA deadline?</b>					
Does the college have a Scholarship Application?					
What is the URL for Scholarship Application?					
What is the deadline for Scholarship Application?					
<i>PROFILE</i> required?					
<i>Deadline for PROFILE?</i>					



# FAFSA Filing Tips...

## Use the FAFSA On The Web at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov)

- Click on “Start A New FAFSA” for the correct academic year

## **BOTH the student and one parent must have an FSA ID**

- Be sure to sign your FAFSA with both FSA IDs and hit the submit button

## **Have BOTH parent and student’s Social Security Number ready.**

- Include your SSN on your admissions application (*and the Common Application*)

## **Have parent and student financial records for required tax year**

- The FAFSA requires both taxed and untaxed income information
- **Use the IRS Data Retrieval option (the DRT tool) for 2016 tax year information!**
- With situations of divorce and remarriage, use the custodial parent AND step-parent’s household and income information.

## **Complete all questions as accurately as possible**

- Don’t leave any questions blank





# After filing the FAFSA...

## 1. You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), which shows:

- The information you submitted in your FAFSA
- Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- If you are federally selected for verification OR have “failed” any federal database matches, either of which will require you to submit additional information to the college, so they can verify or correct your data.

## 2. The schools that you list on the FAFSA will receive the information electronically.

## 3. Financial Aid Offices will process your application AFTER your file is **COMPLETE!**

- If you need to submit additional documents to verify the data you submitted on the FAFSA, the college will notify you. **The student MUST check his/her college email account!!!!**
- Respond in a timely manner to all information requests, or it will delay the process
- You will receive notification of your financial aid eligibility after your file has been reviewed and verified.

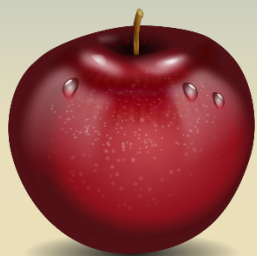
## 4. MD State Scholarships must be accepted on MDCAPS within 2 weeks of being offered - check in March/April!

## 5. This application process can take up to 3 months at some colleges. So apply early!





# Compare Your Costs Between Colleges



## Determine the cost to you for each college

- Since both the student's total costs and the financial aid awards will differ from college to college, each student must compare to determine the “**net cost**” for the education at each school.



## Tools for “Comparison Shopping”

- Most schools use the **Financial Aid Shopping Sheet** to notify students of their costs and awards.
- The **College Score Card** at [collegescorecard.ed.gov](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov)
- The **Net Price Calculator** at each college's website



# Example #1 – Cost Comparison

	<u>College A</u>	<u>College B</u>
<b>1st Year Annual Cost</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>Grants/Scholarships</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>Net Cost!</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

*\*Estimate Costs as either what the college will bill you for (tuition, fees) plus books/supplies, or estimate full costs to include estimated incidental costs and commuting/transportation costs. Its up to you!*

*\*\*Grants/Scholarships should include an estimate of all federal, state, and college scholarships and grants, and any other resources available to pay for college that do not need to be repaid.*

*\*\*Do not subtract loans when determining your Net Cost!*



## Example #2 – Cost Comparison Using Direct Costs

	<u>College A</u>	<u>College B</u>
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>
<b>Dorms</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
<b>Dining</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>Total <i>Direct Costs</i>*</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>
<b>Grants/Scholarships</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
<b><u>Student Loans**</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 10,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 25,000</u></b>
<b>Total Aid</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>
<b>Net Balance Due to the College</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Net/Actual Out of Pocket Cost!</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>

*\*Direct Costs are costs that are billed to you by the college – so you must pay the bill.*

*\*\*Student Loans are a cost to the student so we don't subtract them from costs when determining the "Net Cost" to the student!*

*NOTE: Don't forget that you will have additional costs not billed by the college, like books and supplies, transportation costs, and other costs for personal/miscellaneous items.*





# Other Ways to Pay for College

- **Earn college credit before going to college!**
  - Take college courses while in high school (HCC's Early College!)
  - Take AP courses and score well on the AP tests
- **2 + 2 Transfer Programs!**
  - 2 years at a Community College, then transfer to a 4-year College
- Tuition Payment Plans
- 529 Savings & Prepaid Tuition Programs
  - *Parents with 529 plan must include the plan on the FAFSA as an asset of the parent.*
- Employer Tuition Reimbursement Plan
- Military Tuition Assistance
- Veterans Benefits
- Tuition Waivers

529



# A Few Free Search Engines for Scholarship Aid

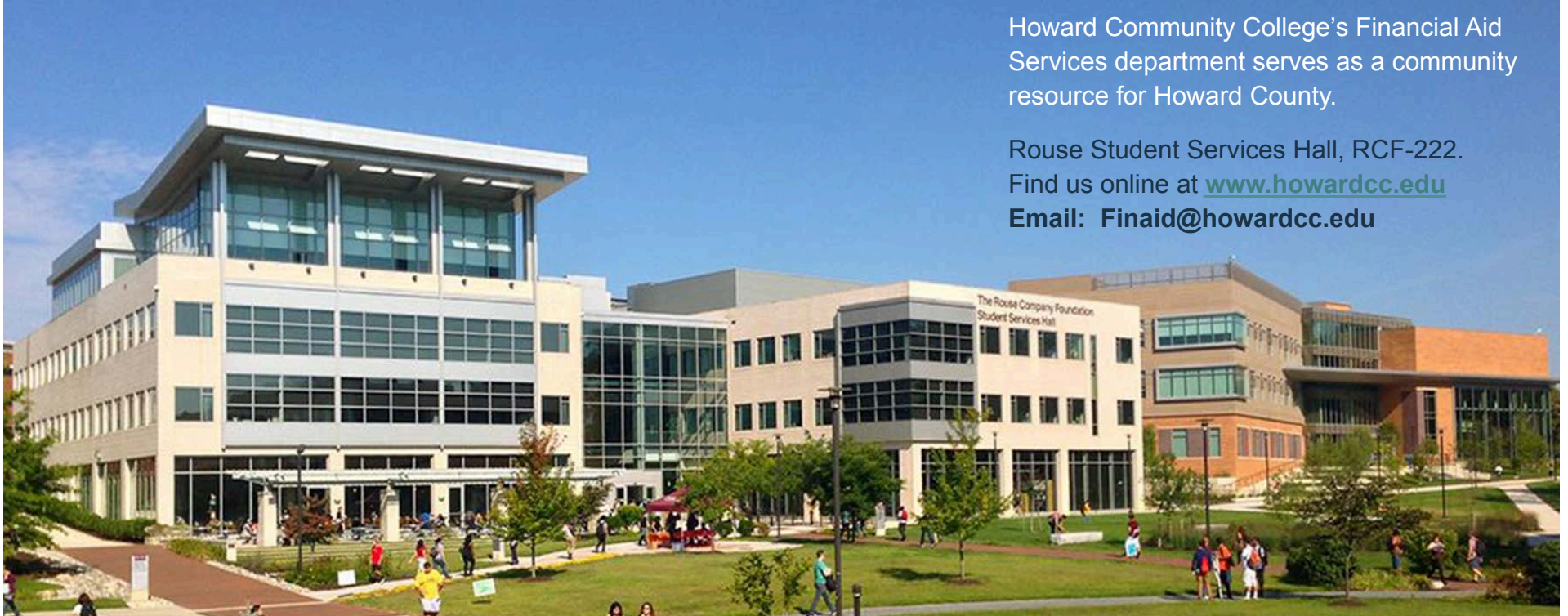


- Use reliable free scholarship search services
  - <http://www.fastweb.com>
  - <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay>
  - <http://www.finaid.org>
  - [www.central-scholarship.org](http://www.central-scholarship.org)



# Where can I find more information?

- Each college's financial aid office
- FAFSA Workshops: Your high school counselors will let you know about these!
- **Websites**
  - U.S. Department of Education — [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)
  - Maryland State Scholarship — [www.mhec.state.md.us](http://www.mhec.state.md.us)
  - National Center for Education Statistics — <https://nces.ed.gov>



Howard Community College's Financial Aid Services department serves as a community resource for Howard County.

Rouse Student Services Hall, RCF-222.

Find us online at [www.howardcc.edu](http://www.howardcc.edu)

Email: [Finaid@howardcc.edu](mailto:Finaid@howardcc.edu)



*Thank you!*  
**Questions?**