

Senior Update

Columbus High School

Oct. 4, 2024

FAFSA: studentaid.gov

- **The FAFSA (Free Application For Student Aid) is the federal application you complete to find out how much grant money you may receive, how many work study hours you may receive and how much you are eligible to take out in student loans.**

You can complete the FAFSA application sometime after December 1, 2024.

Must have an FSA ID for the student and one for a parent (to determine which parent completes the FAFSA go to: <https://studentaid.gov/resources/parent-contributor-fafsa-text>). You can apply for the FSA ID now. You must have it before you can complete the FAFSA.

You'll need your social security number, full legal name, and date of birth. You'll also need to create a memorable username and password, and complete challenge questions and answers so you can retrieve your account information if you forget it.

To apply for the FSA ID

Go to: studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch

- **Double check the information you type in, to make sure it is correct, before moving on with the application process. It is difficult and time consuming to fix any mistakes.**
- **Save all emails from studentaid.gov.**

Scholarship Opportunities

Most scholarships are for any type of higher education.

DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Scholarship:

DEADLINE: November 1, 2024 to Ms Whiting – selected recipient application due November 1, 2024. Ms Whiting will mail it out.

Scholarship: \$250.00 to the state winner and possible \$5,000 as national winner

Criteria: personal qualities – dependability, service, leadership, patriotism. One student from CHS is chosen as the nominee for the scholarship. Students will complete the Part 1 portion of the application. Staff will rate the applicants and the chosen student will then complete Part II of the application. An Awards Tea for the applicant and family is provided in February in Billings.

Application available in black box.

Hagan Scholarship Foundation:

DEADLINE: December 1, 2024

Scholarship: up to \$7,500 each semester

Criteria: 3.5 GPA, household income may not exceed \$100,000, must attend classes on financial responsibility. Must be attending one of the following colleges: Carroll, MSU-Bozeman, or Montana Tech (Butte). The purpose of this scholarship is to help students graduate from college debt free.

More information is available in the black box. Application available online at: <https://haganscholarships.org/application>. Start this application early.

MSU-Bozeman Premier Scholarships:

Go to this site for the latest on applying for scholarships at MSU-Bozeman.

<https://www.montana.edu/admissions/scholarships/residents/index.html>

MSU-Bozeman Presidential Scholarship:

DEADLINE: Dec. 6, 2024

Scholarship: Tuition/fee waiver and generous stipend for 4 years.

Criteria: entering MSU-Bozeman, GPA 3.75 and ACT score 28-30 are expected

Application available at: <https://www.montana.edu/honors/scholarships.html>

U OF M Montana Resident Entering Student Scholarship:

Criteria: Must be accepted to U or M before applying for scholarships.

Application available at

<https://www.umt.edu/finaid/scholarships/mt-resident-entering-student-scholarships/default.php>

U OF M Davison Honors Presidential Leadership Scholarship:

DEADLINE: December 6, 2024

Scholarship: tuition waiver for 4 years

Criteria: GPS 3.7, ACT score 27 or higher

Application available at <http://dhc.umt.edu> Click on Apply.

You must be accepted to the college before they will offer a scholarship to you.

Install the Reach Higher Montana App – This is Montana based for Montana students. Parents, you should install the Reacher Higher Montana app, also. There are many scholarship opportunities through Reach Higher Montana.

**DO NOT PROCRASTINATE –
COMPLETE SCHOLARSHIPS AS YOU ARE
INFORMED OF THEM.**

Searching for and completing scholarship applications is time consuming but it is free money and it will pay off.

Most scholarship committees will contact you only if you are the recipient of the award.

Remember neatness and following directions are important when preparing your applications!

Think of what is unique about yourself – google a scholarship referring to your unique quality....there may be one for you. An example is: left handed people, people with asthma or 1st generation student.

If you are the first person in your family to attend college search for scholarships for “first generation” students.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SITES:

www.fastweb.com

MCIS program portal.mt.cis360.org(create your own username and password)

www.studentscholarships.org

www.scholarships.com

www.studentscholarshipsearch.com

www.myscholly.com

www.free-4u.com

NEVER PAY FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION!

CAMPUS VISITS:

Contact colleges at least two weeks ahead for an individual campus visit. Check on-line, you may be able to register for an individual campus visit. If not, call the admissions office.

Students have no school Oct. 17 and 18. Those are perfect days to go on campus visits. Check to college websites for schedules campus visit dates.

Dream College - Apply to your dream college (you never know you may get in). Yet, also, apply to a backup college as a safety net.

Exchange programs - Colleges have exchange programs with other colleges. So, if you do not get into your dream college you may be able to take advantage of the exchange program once you are in college. Some colleges have agreements with other colleges to except students for 1 year or 1 semester on exchange. You may attend an out of state or out of the country college and pay the tuition of your home college. Remember to check this out once you get to college.

Housing during college. Apply for housing as soon as possible to get your first choice.

Have you started asking for letters of recommendation?

Have you updated your resume of activities?

Make sure to look under “financial aid” on your college website for more scholarship opportunities.

Make sure you are paying close attention to deadlines.

DEADLINE	SCHOLARSHIP	AWARD
Nov. 1, 2024	DAR Scholarship	\$250
Nov. 12, 2024	Elks Most Valuable Scholarship	Varies
Dec. 1, 2024	Hagan Scholarship	Varies
Dec. 6, 2024	MSU-Bozeman Presidential	Tuition
Dec. 6, 2024	UM Honors Scholarship	Varies
Feb. 3, 2025	Elks Legacy Awards	Varies

Keep up with your studies!

Make copies of everything before mailing.

Be at school and on time every day!

All Sr. Updates and Weekly Tips are on the school app. Refer to the app often for the most up-to-date reminders.