

Scholarships and other Financial Aid for the 2000-2001 School Year

A cautionary note: Be wary of scholarship scams. If you have to pay money to compete for a scholarship it may be nothing but a way to solicit your money. The money being solicited from applicants may be the only funds in the “scholarship fund”. The scam may have a very small payoff, with most of the money being pocketed by the “scholarship” group, and your chances to see any are like a lottery—just slightly better than nothing.

Web sites:

Web sites are full of information on scholarships and financial aid for college students for the 2000-2001 school year. Most offer their services without charge. The following is a partial list of useful web sites.

- <http://www.finaid.org> or <http://www.finaid.com> for information on loans, scholarships, other aid, applications, and includes a key word search feature for students, parents and educators. Includes experts online who can be asked specific questions.
- <http://www.collegequest.com> contains both admissions and financial aid information, some information is free, other is fee-based, developed by Peterson's.
- <http://www.collegeboard.org> contains both admissions and financial aid information, by the College Board (SAT) folks.
- <http://www.salliemae.com> financial information by Sallie Mae (Student Loan Marketing Association) a financial institution that specializes in college loans.
- <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Students/taxcuts/credits.html> for information on tuition tax credit programs, Hope Scholarship (a tax credit, not really a scholarship program) and Lifetime Learning Tax Credit, which started in 1998.
- <http://www.ed.gov/studentaid> for student aid information from the US Department of Education, or call 800-433-3243, M-F 8 am to 8 pm EST.
- <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> an alternative way to submit, and receive information about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Scholarships – government employees

- American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) Scholarship Fund gives merit, art merit and need based awards. Contact <http://www.afsa.org.mbr/scholar.html> or email: scholar@afsa.org for information. See detailed sheet for eligibility criteria.
- DACOR Bacon House Foundation Dreyfus Fellowship Awards for students enrolled at Yale University who are children of a Foreign Service employee, active or retired. Deadline March 15, 2000. Contact William Hamilton, phone: 202-682-0500 or 800-344-9127, fax: 202-842-3295. See sheet for application and eligibility details.

- FEEAF (Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund) scholarship information for current civilian federal and postal employees with at least three years of federal service and their dependent family members. For more information see <http://www.feea.org/Scholarships.html> Application deadline March 31, 2000. The applications will be ready in January 2000, and will be included in a later FLO mailing, or can be requested from FEEA.
- Foreign Service. Children or grandchildren of Foreign Service personnel, the *S. Pinkney Tuck Scholarship* is based on financial need for students at Dartmouth College. Contact the Director of Financial Aid, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755, phone: 603-646-2451, fax: 603-646-1414.
- Foreign Service. Children of Foreign Service personnel, need-based scholarship at Yale, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert H. Kinney. Apply to Director of Financial Aid, Undergraduate Financial Aid Office, Box 208288, New Haven, CT 06520-8288, phone: 203-432-0360, fax: 203-432-0359.
- Foreign Service. Daughters of Foreign Service personnel, *The Polly Richardson Lukens Memorial Scholarship* and the *Gilan Scholarship* awards, based on financial need at Vassar College. Apply to Director of Financial Aid, Office of Financial Aid, Vassar College, Box 8 Poughkeepsie, NY 12604, phone: 914-437-5320, fax: 914-437-7008.
- State Department Federal Credit Union (SDFCU) members' scholarships are available for need-based, currently enrolled students. Call: 703-706-5019 or email Scholarship Coordinator at cclass@sdfcu.org Competition February 1 - April 14, 2000.

Scholarships for special categories:

- African-American scholars: <http://www.ronbrown.org>
- Athletics: <http://www.ncaa.org>
- Disabilities: Heath Resource Center publishes "Financial Aid for Students with Disabilities", <http://www.acenet.edu>
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund: <http://www.hsfnet/scholarship>
- National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering: <http://www.nacme.org>
- Native Americans: <http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html>
- ROTC programs:
Air Force: <http://www.usarotc.com>
Army: <http://www.afoats.af.mil/rotc.htm>
Navy/Marines: <http://www.cnet.navy.mil/nrotc/nrotc.htm>
- Veterans and their family members: <http://www.legion.org/dept.htm>

Other programs for financing a college education:

- **Americorps:** a service program, which will help pay off future or current student loans in exchange for community service. Information available: <http://www.cns.gov/>
- **Maryland Prepaid College Trust:** information accessed through their web site: <http://www.prepaid.usmd.edu> or by phone (toll free) 888-463-4723. The deadlines for this tax year are February 29, 2000. Their two information booklets will be sent in February mailing.
- **Virginia Education Savings Trust (VEST):** information on various Commonwealth of Virginia plans including, Virginia College Savings Plan, Prepaid Education Program (VPEP), and the new Education Savings Trust (VEST) accessed through their web site: <http://www.vpep.state.va.us> Comparisons of these plans to Custodial Accounts, Education IRAs, and Taxable Accounts are available. The VEST plan is new, available to all US citizens or resident aliens, and does not restrict use of the funds to a Virginia school. You can ask questions or request a folder of information from their toll free number: 888-567-0540, local number: 804-786-0719, or fax: 804-786-2453 to leave a message. Office hours are 8 am to 5 pm EST. Calls can be returned after hours or overseas. Write: P.O. Box 607, Richmond, VA 23218-0607, or request forms through the web site. You can also directly contact the Director of Policy, Cindy Comer at ccomer@vpep.state.va.us

Tax information: IRS Helpline: 800-829-1040, <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov> You can download the Adobe document: *Tax Benefits for Higher Education*.

Special Programs for the 2001-2002 School Year: These program generally pay costs toward tuition, offer a salary, and expect you to commit to employment with them for a number of years after completing a 4 year college program at the university of your choice. Also, they would employ you during the summer breaks. They are needs based awards but not dependent upon parents being in government employment. Contact them directly for more information. The deadlines for the 2000 entry have already passed. Deadlines for the 2001-2 school year are during November 2000. Look under the employment section of these web sites.

- *Defense Intelligence Agency's Undergraduate Training Assistance Program:* <http://www.dia.mil.gov> or phone: Lisa Stidham, DIA, Civilian Personnel Division, Attn: DAH2 (UTAP), 200 McDill Boulevard, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC 20340-5100, phone: 202-231-4713, fax: 202-231-4889.
- *National Security Agency Undergraduate Training Program:* www.nsa.gov Bonita LeGoullon, Program Manager, Undergraduate Training Program, Att: S234(UTP), Ft. Meade, MD 20755-6000, bllegou@ncsc.mil or phone: 800-669-0703 or 410-854-4725.
- *Central Intelligence Agency Undergraduate Scholar Program:* <http://www.cia.gov> Chief of Student Programs, Marie Vanderhoof, phone: 703-613-8388, fax: 703-613-7676. Recruitment Center, P. O. Box 12727, Arlington, VA 22209-8727.