

CLASS OF 2018

COLLEGE BULLETIN

Volume 5 Issue 14 · November 17, 2017

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TESTING DATES / REGISTRATION DEADLINES

SAT

Dec. 2 / Nov. 2

ACT

Dec. 9 / Nov. 3

Registration Fee

\$46

CEEB Code

060-251

Register online or pick up
registration materials in
the College Center.

www.act.org

www.collegeboard.com

*Students interested in highly
selective schools need to allow
time to take SAT Subject
Tests (sometimes required)*

FAFSA & FINANCIAL AID

The financial aid process has given rise to a number of myths, misconceptions and just plain misinformation. Here are some common myths:

I have too much money to get financial aid. Your parents may have good jobs and you might live in a nice house, but that does not mean that you will not qualify for financial aid. Financial aid is contingent on several factors other than income, such as number of dependents and age of your oldest parent. The amount of financial need identified also depends on the total expense of where you want to attend college. You will qualify for more financial aid at a private school like Colorado College than UCCS because of the difference in the cost of attendance.

Only straight-A students get aid. Federal financial aid is based solely on demonstrated financial need. Merit scholarships recognize achievement and are not necessarily tied to financial need. Some colleges incorporate merit scholarships into their financial aid package but all federal-based monies are awarded based on the ability to pay regardless of the student's GPA.

Loans are not financial aid. Many students expect all financial aid to be *free* money that does not have to

be paid back. However, neither the government nor colleges have enough money to give to the number of students who need it. That is why most financial aid packages are a combination of grants, loans and work study. Even if all you get is a government subsidized loan, you will have received financial aid. A subsidized loan will not accumulate interest on the amount you borrow until after you graduate from college. Remember that you do not have to accept loans that are offered to you. If you have enough money in savings, or earn enough working during the year or in the summer, you can choose to decrease the amount borrowed or avoid the loan altogether.

I can do it all at the last minute. As you move on to college, you will be assuming adult responsibilities with adult consequences. Deadlines are very important to the financial aid process. Colleges start awarding financial aid to those who have filed their FAFSA by the priority deadline. If yours is one of the last applications to arrive, you are apt to receive whatever is left, usually loans. Take care of business, which includes registering for the Selective Service, if you are male, as soon as possible as you approach your 18th birthday. If you are not registered, you will not be eligible for federal financial aid.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Colorado Garden Show, Inc One 4 year full ride scholarship to a student majoring in Agriculture Education; Horticulture; Floriculture; Landscape Architecture or Design; Botany, Biology, Plant Pathology/Science; Forestry; Agronomy; Environmental Concerns; Environmental Conservation; City Planning; Land Management; and other related fields at a state funded Colorado college or university. Scholarship is awarded based on need. The application is available at <http://coloradogardenfoundation.org/scholarships> Deadline: Received by March 15

ELKS Most Valuable Student Competition 500 4 year scholarships to the highest ranked students. Applicants must be U.S. citizens & will be judged on financial need, leadership and academics. Awards range from \$1000 to \$12,500 per year. Access an application at our local ELKS Lodge or online at www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cfm Deadline Dec. 4th

ELKS National Foundation's ENF Legacy Awards Renewable \$1000 scholarship awards to students whose parent or grandparent is a member of the ELKS. Applicants are evaluated on their demonstration of the core values of the ELKS National Foundation: knowledge; charity; community; and integrity. This year, 7 scholarships will be awarded to Colorado seniors. Applications are available from our local ELKS lodge or at www.elks.org/enf/scholars/legacy.cfm Submission Deadline January 29.

FINANCIAL AID TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Financial Aid Package: The combination of grants, loans, & work-study that a college offers you to help pay for college costs. You may accept the entire package or any part of it.

Work Study: A need-based financial aid program subsidizing jobs for eligible students. Work-study is awarded by colleges, and a portion of the funding comes from the federal or state government. The money you earn is yours' to budget for personal expenses.

Demonstrated Need: The difference between the cost of attending a college and the *Expected Family Contribution*. The federal government's calculations determine eligibility for federal aid programs—a college can use its own analysis to determine need. A college that says it is "need-blind" offers students admission regardless of their financial health. A school that meets "full need" is referring to demonstrated need.

Gap: There can be a gap between the amount of a student's financial aid package and the *Expected Family Contribution* and the total cost of attendance. The amount of the gap will be money that your family will have to find somewhere else.

Verification: A process of confirming FAFSA information by comparing specified documents with the information on the Student Aid Report (such as income tax returns).

FSA ID: Federal Student Aid ID. If you file the FAFSA online, you will need to apply for a FSA ID to electronically sign your application. One of your parents will also need a FSA ID. Apply for a FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

US Naval Academy Midshipmen Visit November 20 5-7 pm Cheyenne Mountain High School. Any students interested in USNA are encouraged to attend info session. **Early Action Deadlines: December 1 and 15** Many colleges have December 1 or December 15 deadlines. Be sure to communicate with Mrs. Cooper if you need documents sent to colleges on your behalf.