

FastWEB

The University of Florida (UF) provides free access to this service, which searches a database of scholarships, fellowships, grants, and loans. fastWEB creates a private mail box in your name, compares your information to awards available, and compiles a list of awards in your mailbox. Search 600,000 scholarships worth over \$1 billion. The search takes five to 15 minutes and is updated daily. fastWEB works for students in all disciplines, from freshmen to post-doctoral candidates. Access through UF at <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/infoserv/links.html>.

SRN Express

SRN Express at <http://www.srnexpress.com>, a free Web version of the *Scholarship Resource Network* database, lists scholarships, fellowships, and grants for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral education. The database contains mostly portable, private-sector, non-need-based aid. A few list financial need as a criterion. The database does not list institutional awards. New, verified scholarship information is added to the SRN database continuously. Every program listed in the database is verified annually.

College Board.com

The College Board's scholarship database http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp lists scholarships and other types of financial aid programs from national, state, public, and private sources. The database will find potential opportunities from our database of more than 2,300 sources.

Sallie Mae wiredscholar

WiredScholar http://www.collegeanswer.com/paying/scholarship_search/pay_scholarship_search.jsp is a free financial aid scholarship search service offered by Sallie Mae that connects you to one of the Internet's largest databases of financial aid.

Another way to access the previous free scholarship searches in case their web addresses change:

- Go to your Web server and enter the UF Office for Student Financial Affairs home page: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu>.
Select "Office/Services," "Aid Links," and then the scholarship search you wish to visit.
- Follow the instructions until a profile is created for you and a search completed.

SFA Resource Room

Electronic Scholarship Bulletin Board

Student Financial Affairs (SFA) provides a Student Resource Center in S-107 Criser Hall to enable students to research and apply for financial aid, including scholarships and part-time jobs, via onsite computers. Students can access online: the U. S. Department of Education's FAFSA on the Web site; UF's Loan Confirmation Site, UF's ISIS (Integrated Student Information System), UF's student job lists; e-mail; and free scholarship searches.

Also available via the computers is an electronic scholarship bulletin board—a list of scholarships provided by private, civic, and other non-UF organizations. You can also access the electronic bulletin board via your home computer at: www.sfa.ufl.edu/programs/otheraid.html.

Many of these organizations provide applications that SFA keeps on file for student use. Application forms for currently available resources can be obtained in the resource room, which is open approximately 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Federal Work-Study student staff are available to help with use of the screens.



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Educating Leaders for a Global Community

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Looking for Scholarships & Financial Aid is produced by the Office for Student Financial Affairs' Information/Publication Services section, S-102 Criser Hall.

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This document is available in alternative formats for students with documented print-related disabilities. For information, call Student Financial Affairs line for students with disabilities: (352) 392-1272 (V/TDD).

University of Florida
Office for Student
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Looking for



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Financial Aid

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Where Should I Begin My Financial Aid Search?

■ The Financial Aid Office

The financial aid office at the school you plan to attend is the best place to begin your search for financial aid information. The financial aid administrator can tell you about student aid and scholarships available from the federal government, your state government, the school itself, and other sources. The UF home page on the Web is at: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu>.

■ The Web (Internet)

The Internet offers a wide range of information and resource listings for students and prospective students in all areas of study. The best place to begin a Web search is at the home site of the university you plan to attend. The UF home page is at: www.ufl.edu.

Another excellent financial aid Web page is the Financial Aid Information Page (FINAID), which provides links to many sources of information about financial aid, such as federal aid, online application for financial aid, scholarship scams, a financial aid checklist, financial aid calculators, aid for special populations, military aid, and free scholarship searches. FINAID is at: <http://www.finaid.org>.

■ Private, Civic, and Religious Organizations

Information about student aid is available from private foundations, religious organizations, community organizations, and civic groups, as well as professional organizations related to your field of interest, such as the American Medical or American Bar Associations. Check with your parents' employers to see if they award scholarships or have a tuition payment plan.

■ Libraries and Bookstores

You can find free information about student aid in the reference section of your local library (usually under "student aid" or "financial aid"). These materials usually include information about federal, state, institutional, and private aid. Bookstores also stock books with many awards based on achievement, residence, professional affiliation, and/or field of study.

UF Financial Aid Resources

■ UF Office for Student Financial Affairs (SFA)

SFA, UF's financial aid office, administers federal, state, and university aid programs and a limited number of privately funded scholarships. SFA draws on all of these resources when making up students' financial aid "packages." If you apply for financial aid at UF by completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* and listing UF as a college of choice, you will be automatically considered for all scholarships available through SFA.

SFA provides financial aid advising to students, and publishes comprehensive financial aid information on the SFA Web site (<http://www.sfa.ufl.edu>), including application and program information, a *Gator Aid Application Guide* request form, student employment job lists, and "Scholarship Central" at: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/programs/scholarhq.html>, featuring free scholarship searches (see back). SFA also prints *Gator Aid: Scholarships and Financial Aid at the University of Florida*, which includes chapters on application, programs, money matters, college-awarded scholarships, and outside resources. As a further resource, SFA maintains a Student Resource Room for online aid application that includes an Electronic Scholarship Bulletin Board (see back).

■ UF Admissions Office

The Admissions Office (www.reg.ufl.edu/regadmi.htm) awards academic achievement scholarships to incoming freshmen and transfer students. To be considered, students must have a complete UF admission application (application form, high school transcript, test scores, and application fee) on file by the application deadline. No initial application is required.

■ UF Colleges

Individual UF colleges, schools, and departments offer scholarships and other assistance to undergraduates. Although administered by the colleges, many are funded by private individuals and institutions. In most

cases, these awards are given to juniors and seniors accepted for admission into a particular program. Some, however, are designated for freshmen and/or sophomores. For information, check with your department. Also, the Division of Military Sciences in Van Fleet Hall offers R.O.T.C. scholarships.

The Office of Research and Graduate Programs (RGP), Division of Sponsored Research, in Grinter Hall, offers catalogs, guides, and database searches and other sources of funding opportunities. Go to: <http://rgp.ufl.edu/research/funding.html>.

Federal and State Resources

■ The Federal Government

The U. S. Department of Education, the major source of student aid (nearly 70 percent of aid awarded each year), offers: Federal Direct Stafford Loans; Federal Direct PLUS (Parents) Loans; Federal Pell Grants; Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants; Federal Perkins Loans; and Federal Work-Study.

Most of this aid is awarded based on financial need rather than achievement. For instance, most grants are targeted to low-income students. However, you do not have to show financial need to receive Federal Direct PLUS or unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford loans. Students apply for federal student aid by filing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*. Aid is also available from other federal agencies, such as the U. S. Public Health Service, branches of the U. S. military, the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Free federal aid materials, including the *FAFSA* and *The Student Guide*, are available by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center toll-free: 1-800-433-3243; TDD 1-800-730-8913. The Center's operators can answer your questions about federal student aid programs, filing an application, and application processing. The federal student portal to the Web is a great resource. Go to: <http://www.students.gov>.

■ State of Florida Student Assistance Programs

The Florida Department of Education offers various student aid programs, including the Florida Bright Futures Program, which are administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) in Tallahassee. Information about state programs is provided on the OSFA Web site on the internet at: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/osfahomepg>

[.htm](#). State Program applications and information can be obtained from high school guidance offices and OSFA at Turlington Building, Suite 1514, 325 Gaines Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399, (888) 827-2004.

Other Resources

■ **Banks and Credit Unions.** Some private lenders offer student educational loans, savings programs, and/or tuition payment plans. Check with your bank or local lending institutions.

■ **Florida Prepaid Tuition Plan**, P. O. Box 6567, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6567. A program guaranteed by the State of Florida through which families prepay for their child's education at a guaranteed fixed rate. For information, call 1-800-552-GRAD, or go to: <http://www.florida529plans.com>.

■ **Cooperative Education (CO-OP)**, Career Resource Center, 1st Floor, J. Wayne Reitz Union, P. O. Box 118507, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-8507, (352) 392-8239; or go to: <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/Experiential/CoopIntern/experience.php>. Co-Op Education is an off-campus work program that combines paid work experience with academic curriculums.

■ **AmeriCorps/USA Freedom Corps**, Corporation for National and Community Service, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20505; 1-800-942-2677 (TTY 1-800-833-3722); <http://www.cns.gov>. In exchange for a year of service in such roles as tutoring, disaster relief, restoring parks and streams, AmeriCorps members receive an education award to pay student loans or help finance graduate school. During service, AmeriCorps members earn a living allowance and may qualify to defer existing student loans.

■ **The United States Peace Corps**, UF Campus Recruiter, UF International Center, 411 Peabody; (352) 392-6783; <http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/peacecorps>. Two to four years of service in the Peace Corps can eliminate up to 70% of student loan debts.

Beware Scholarship Scams

If you must pay money to get money, it might be a scam. Every year there are a few scams based on imitations of legitimate foundations, scholarship sponsors, lenders, and scholarship search companies. Consult *The Financial Aid Information Page (FINAID)* on the Web (<http://www.finaid.org>) for good advice on identifying scams.