

How to Get Help Paying for College

Transition Skills, Tips & Tools
Paying for College



1. Contact the colleges or universities (by phone or their website) where you are interested in enrolling and ask about:
 - The cost of attendance, including the breakdown of tuition and fees, room and board, travel, books and supplies, and personal and miscellaneous expenses.
 - The types of financial assistance available.
 - The steps and timeframes for submitting applications for assistance.
 - The criteria institutions use to award financial aid.
 - The interest rates on various student loans, the total amount you must repay, the length of time to repay, when to start repaying, and what cancellations (deferments) apply.
 - Other conditions that affect financial assistance.
2. **Mapping Your Future** is a free resource for career, college, financial aid, and money management information. Their goal is to help individuals achieve lifelong success by empowering students, families, and schools with free, web-based information and services at mappingyourfuture.org/.
3. **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa.
4. **Explore more funding sources** to help pay for college.

Go to the next page for ideas and scholarship information.

Financial Resources for Postsecondary Education

Scholarship	Website and Contact Information	Description
Federal Student Aid	studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa	Financial help for students enrolled in eligible programs at participating schools. Includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Most federal aid is need-based. The three most common types of aid are grants, loans, and work-study.
FinAid	finaid.org/	A free scholarship search, including one for financial aid for students with disabilities.
College Scholarships	www.collegescholarships.com	Provides a large database of available scholarships.
Illinois College to Career	www.ilcollege2career.com/#/	A tool to review a wide range of information on Illinois two-year and four-year institutions that includes career outcomes of graduates and student debt.
General Scholarships for Students With Disabilities	www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid/ Keyword Search: disabilities	A comprehensive listing of scholarships for a wide variety of individuals with disabilities.
College Funding for Students With Disabilities DO-IT (washington.edu)	www.washington.edu/doit/college-funding-students-disabilities	Provides a lot of great information on different types of financial assistance for higher education.
Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)	www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29736 You can also call: (877) 761-9780 (Voice) (866) 264-2149 (TTY) (312) 957-4881 (VP)	DHS's Division of Rehabilitation Services is the state's lead agency serving individuals with disabilities. DRS works in partnership with people with disabilities and their families to help them make informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities. Are you an individual with a disability who's interested in furthering your education beyond high school? If so, then DRS may be able to help defray the costs of your education and help you achieve a successful career.

We're here to help.

To learn more about the Division of Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at: dscc.uic.edu

