

Spruance College Corner



Today's college cost for students is very expensive. With the rising cost of living, it is going to be a bigger challenge to educate our students. However, regardless of this situation, there are still many scholarships being offered and today's economy should not deter anyone from searching for money. There are three areas where assistance may come from: Government, Universities/Colleges and Private Industries. These resources do offer money for the student applying to the universities today. A student could receive money from all three areas; do not assume that you do not qualify due to high family income. Although eligibility for some scholarships and grants is based on financial need, there are still many that are not need base.

Government

Florida Bright Futures- Registration begins on December 1, 2015. State Scholarship: please apply for Bright Futures, even if you are not planning to attend college in Florida, this scholarship is viable for three years. If a student decides to return to the State of Florida the student will still have the opportunity to receive this award. This scholarship can be used toward the Public universities as well as the Private institutions. Bright Futures Scholarship award is based on a student's academic record.

FASFA- Application opens to the class of 2016 on January 1, 2016- Federal Financial Aid- Although this assistance is "need base" colleges do want an application on file. Reason being that, in the event that an unforeseen situation arises, the Federal Government will activate the application affording your student to continue their education. FASFA is an insurance for your student's education much like life insurance; you want to be prepared in the event that something would occur.

FRAG – Florida Residence Access Grant- Scholarship granted to all students that are admitted with Florida residency and have been accepted to a private university.

- **Military Academies:**

These could be a great option for the right student. For students who would like to experience a military environment while getting a first-class education, the five Service academies — the U.S. Military Academy (Army) in West Point, N.Y.; the U.S. Naval Academy (Navy/Marine Corps) in Annapolis, Md.; the U.S. Air Force Academy (Air Force) in Colorado Springs, Colo.; the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (Coast Guard) in New London, Conn.; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in

Kings Point, N.Y. — offer an outstanding education and full four-year scholarships. Tuition, books, board and medical and dental care are all fully paid for all four years.

The competition to get in is fierce. Admissions criteria include:

- High school academic performance
- Standardized test scores (SAT or ACT)
- Athletics and extracurricular activities
- Leadership experience and community involvement
- A congressional letter of recommendation (not required by the Coast Guard Academy)

Graduates of all four academies receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned as officers in their respective Service branch. In all cases, there is a service obligation of a minimum of five years.

- **ROTC:**

ROTC students attend college like other students, but also receive basic military training and officer training for their chosen branch of service through the ROTC unit at or nearby the college. The students participate in regular drills during the school year, and extended training activities during the summer. There are several colleges, many in Florida, with ROTC units. Check the Spruance website and look under “College” for more information.

Just like the military academies, the competition to be awarded a scholarship is fierce and the academic/physical requirements high.

Colleges/Universities:

Check with your Universities and Colleges and review what kind of scholarships are available. You will be surprised with the amount the students receive for merit. There are several, highly ranked “regional universities” that are more generous than the larger schools. If you want more specific examples, please write me.

I. Colleges/Universities offer money for the following:

- Academics
- Athletics
- Activities/Talents
- Need Base

Private Companies/Corporations:

There are many scholarships that are offered to students by countless companies. There are several resources that will provide assistance with this search. Examples: Coca Cola, KFC, Brandsmart, etc....

Fastweb.com – a student needs to register on this website. Fast Web has great tools to help a student achieve college goals, all in one place for free.

Naviance – National College Search –a student needs to register on this site

Parents Place of Employment- Parents, be vigilant of your place of employment and what opportunities are being offered for your student.