

SCHOLARSHIP INFO FOR SENIORS

Six Easy Steps to Get Started....

- **STEP ONE: *The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens on October 1, 2020.*** Filing a FAFSA is the essential first step for ALL college-bound students, whether planning to attend a community college or a university. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> . The deadline for California aid is March 2, 2021, however some funds are allocated on a first come-first serve basis, so it is best to file as early as possible. ***Important: Never pay to file a FAFSA. It is always free. If you are asked to pay a fee, you are not on the actual FAFSA website listed above.***
- **STEP TWO: *Check out the Scholarship Calendar on the PGHS website.***
Go to <https://pghigh.pgusd.org/index.html> . Click on *Counseling*. Scroll down to *Quick Links* and then to *Scholarship Calendar 2020-21*. In the beginning of the school year there are often not many scholarships posted, but as the year moves on, the calendar becomes full of opportunities, so check often.
- **STEP THREE: *Applying to a Private College? Call their Financial Aid Office.*** For private colleges, ***the largest amount of aid typically comes from the college itself.*** They have both need-based and merit-based scholarships available. Some do not need a separate application – by applying to the college you are already eligible. Others require a separate application. Call and ask, just to make sure you haven't missed anything. ***Also ask: Do you need to file a CSS Profile?*** A few private colleges require a separate financial information package over and above the FAFSA. Call to see if the college requires a CSS Profile. There is a fee charged to file a CSS Profile.
- **STEP FOUR: *Know the Deadlines... Meet the Deadlines:*** Scholarship deadlines are ***very firm***. There are typically large numbers of applicants that DO get their paperwork in on time. There is no need for scholarship organizations to go out of their way for students who do not meet deadlines.
- **STEP FIVE: *Google. Google. Google.*** Research options. Search online for your intended college, your proposed major, your talents, your hobbies, your ethnic heritage, your religious affiliation, etc., and type the word “scholarship” after it. See what comes up. Try using a scholarship search engine such as scholarships.com, collegescholarships.org, unigo.com, or fastweb.com. ***Please note: You should never be asked to pay to apply for a scholarship. Legitimate scholarships have no application fee. If there is a charge, be suspicious.***
- **STEP SIX: *The Local Scholarship Application*** will become available in the Counseling Office or online at the PGHS website in early February, 2021. This single form will serve as an application for many local scholarships including PG Rotary Club, PG Masonic Lodge, PG Kiwanis Club, MPC, Monterey County Association of Realtors scholarships and more.