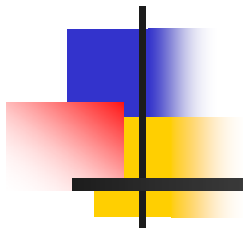


College Information and Financial Aid: Internet Connections



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Why Use the Internet

- Current information – updated often
- Quick access to information
- Comparison shop at home
- Depth of college information
- Access to scholarships and financial aid



What is Available Online

- Virtual viewbook
- Application
- College catalog
- Net price calculators
- Financial aid applications
- Financial aid early estimators
- Scholarship sites



Virtual Viewbooks

- Virtual campus tour and general information
- Campus activities/sports
- Admissions data
 - Freshman class profile
 - Filing deadlines
 - Admissions requirements
- Financial aid/scholarship information
- Ability to calculate net cost of attendance
- Academic and disability support service



Applications

- Almost all applicants now apply online and that is the preferred method
- Common Application
 - Used by over 450 colleges and universities
- Universal Application
- Individual college applications



College Catalogs

- Entrance and exit requirements
- Requirements for specific majors
- Course descriptions
- Rules and regulations
- Similar to a contract between student and college



Financial Aid Applications

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Everyone should file
 - Available after January 1 of senior year
 - Apply early for a PIN
- CSS/Financial Aid Profile
 - Required by selected colleges
 - Available now
 - File only if required



Financial Aid Early Estimators

- Value of early planning
- Suggested sites and resources
 - Net Price Calculators – on each college website
 - [FINAID Calculators](#)
 - [FAFSA4caster](#) (from the US Dept. of Education)



Scholarship Sites

- The more local, the better
 - Contact the Career Center Specialist or Counselor in your school
- Additional suggested sites
 - [Fastweb](#)
 - [Mach 25](#)
 - [MeritAid.com](#)
- Be aware of scholarship [scams](#)



Web Resources

- FCPS Office of Special Education
 - <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/>
- FCPS Career and Transition Programs and Services
 - <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/careertransition/>
- FCPS Parent Resource Center
 - <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/>

Web Sites to Access for Additional Information



- FCPS Career Connections
 - <http://www.fcps.edu/is/schoolcounseling/careerconnections/index.shtml>
- Virginia College Quest
 - <http://www.vacollegequest.org/>



Web Resources

- FAFSA - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- PIN – www.pin.ed.gov
- CSS Profile - <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/>
- FINAID Calculators - www.finaid.org/calculators/
- FAFSA4Caster – <https://fafsa4caster.ed.gov>
- FastWeb – www.fastweb.com
- Mach 25 – www.collegenet.com/mach25
- Merit Aid – www.meritaid.com
- Scams - www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml