



**KERN COMMUNITY**  
F O U N D A T I O N

Growing community.  
Growing philanthropy.

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Manager of Grants and Scholarships

# Tonight's Presentation Will Cover

- Important Financial Aid Terms
- A look at a REAL student's Cost of Attendance & Financial Aid Awards
- What is a scholarship?
- How do you find Scholarships?
- What is the Scholarship Timeline?
- What should you expect in an application?
- How do you make the most of your essay/personal statement?
- How do you get the best letter of recommendation?
- Get the most BANG for your App!

# Important Financial Aid Terms

- Financial Aid
- FAFSA and California Dream Act
- Grant
- Scholarship
- Work Study
- Cost of Attendance

# A look at a REAL Student's Financial Aid

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## Cost of Attendance

Tuition & Fees:	\$8,523
Room & Board:	\$10,677
Books & Supplies:	\$1,737
Transportation:	\$1,134
Personal/Misc:	\$2,289
TOTAL:	\$24,360



## Financial Aid Awards

Pell Grant:	\$0
Cal Grant A (fees):	\$5,472
Scholarships:	\$8,500
Work Study:	\$0
Student Loans:	\$0
TOTAL:	\$13,972

These amounts come from a **real** student awarded scholarship funds from Kern Community Foundation in 2015.

# A look at a REAL Student's Financial Aid

## Cost of Attendance

Tuition & Fees:	\$8,523
Room & Board:	\$10,677
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TOTAL: **\$13,972**

Paid by Cal Grant and Scholarships

Living with a family friend in exchange for participation in cleaning

Significantly reduced cost by renting books online. Spent \$150 total for Fall books.

No car, so no parking fee. Purchased a bus pass and a used bike

Student maintains a strict budget

# What is a Scholarship?

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- Free
- Provided by a private entity or individual
- Can have strings
- Can be structured in *interesting* ways

# How do you find a Scholarship?

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- Your high school
- Your college
- Your Community Foundation ([www.kernfoundation.org](http://www.kernfoundation.org))
- Your parents place of work/ association/ union
- The Internet

\*Unless attending a very major specific school, consider making school selections (partially) based on their scholarship aid.

# How do you find a Scholarship?

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## WEB RESOURCES

- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- College Financial Aid Page
- Corporate websites for the industry you are interested in.



# What is the Scholarship timeline?

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- Fall- RESEARCH
  - Use school and web resources to learn what you need and when it is due.
  - Create online accounts needed for applications
    - Accounts for the applications and a scholarship email account.
- Winter- APPLICATIONS
  - Send in QUALITY applications in January and February (some have deadlines in March and April)
  - Be sure to follow ALL instructions
- Spring- FOLLOW-UP & AWARDS
  - Check email regularly and respond to requests promptly.

# What should you expect on an Application?

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- Basic personal contact information
- Grade Point Average
- A list of extracurricular activities with involvement and dates.  
(Example: Varsity Soccer, Forward 2013-15, Captain 2015)
- 1-3 Letters of Recommendation AND/OR Contact Information for Recommenders
- A well written Personal Statement/Essay that discusses your goals for the future and/or responds to a specific prompt provided
- A copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) or California Aid Report
- Your High School Transcript

# How do you make the most of your essay/personal statement?

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## Content

- Fully read and understand the prompt (if provided).
- Your “goal for the future” should not be *going to college* or *graduating from college*.
- DO tell me a story. DON'T rewrite the content of your application in essay form.
- Connect your story to your goals.
- Be aware of how you come across. (Be grateful, not entitled. Be proud of your success, not arrogant. Be GENUINE.)
- Know your audience. (Time to research.)
- Highlight things about yourself that align with their values.

# How do you make the most of your essay/personal statement?

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## Quality

- Remember the basics. Grammar. Spelling. Punctuation.
- Follow instructions (length, font, size, margins, etc) If no formatting instructions are given use this: 2 pages, Times New Roman or Arial, 12pt font, 1 in. margins, black ink.
- Use common sayings sparingly.
- Complete the essay with time to proof read and give it to someone else to read. (Make sure the reader knows what the requirements are.)

**NEVER** use one essay for all of your scholarship applications. We can tell.

# How to get the best Letters of Recommendation (LOR)?

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- Identify your recommenders and ask early.
  - The best LOR come from people who know you personally AND work at your school, are an employer, or volunteer leader. Never use family.
- Create your own Letter of Recommendation (LOR) Request form.

(student name, scholarship name and how much it's worth, date the application is due, **date you'd like to have the letter by**, LOR description from scholarship, scholarship givers values/codes of conduct/etc., instructions on how the writer should get it back to you)
- Ask for two copies.
- Be polite. Say thank you. Remember that your LOR is a favor and not a priority.

# Get the most BANG for your App!

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- RESEARCH!
  - How much money is a particular scholarship giving out for this year?
  - How many applications did they receive last year?
  - What are the scoring criteria?
  - How much is financial need taken in to consideration?
- Search out scholarships that use **Common Applications**.
- Complete any follow-up opportunities given to you.
- Make sure every submission is the BEST presentation of you.

# DON'T FORGET!

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Complete our Online Common Scholarship Application

[www.kernfoundation.org](http://www.kernfoundation.org)

Opens December 2016

A dark, semi-transparent photograph of two young women. The woman on the left is smiling and holding a book titled 'THE PRACTICE OF STATISTICS'. The woman on the right is wearing glasses and also smiling. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

# QUESTIONS???