



A STUDENT GUIDE: IT PROFESSIONALS

AGENDA

Certification Program
In Class Exercise
Embedded Assessment

• Getting Started

- Get Organized
- Filing System he all-important filing system
- Notebook for Finances
- Calendar
- Transcript
- Guidance Counselor
- Develop a Plan

- **Money to Pay For College**
 - **College Costs**
 - **Show to Save for College**
 - **Free Money**
 - **Financial Aid**
 - **Tax Savings**
 - **Scholarship**

• College Exams

All about College Testing

- How to decide which test to take
- Staying on top of the deadlines
- Tips on test taking

Test Prep

- Taking the PSAT and/or PLAN
- Free practice tests
- Studying for the tests
- Should you pay for test prep?

The SAT vs ACT

- How to decide which test to take
- All about the SAT
- All about the ACT

AP (Advanced Placement) Tests

- How to plan ahead for AP Tests
- The benefits of AP Tests

• Choosing the Right College

How to Choose the Right College

- Making the list
- Narrowing the field

Some Common Mistakes in Choosing a College

- Putting all your eggs in one basket
- Going for all the wrong reasons

The ins and outs of College Tours

- Starting online at college websites
- Asking the right questions
- Video Tours

- **Financing Your Education**
 - **Financial Aid**
 - **FAFSA**
 - **Financial Aid Office**

• **Admissions**

- **Application**
- **Transcript**
- **Recommendation Letters**
- **Essay**
- **College interview**
- **Resume**

How to Make the Right Decision

- Acceptance Letters
- What are your Options
- How to Make Final Decision

- **Tips for Starting College**
 - The transition
 - The time before starting college
 - Dorm Living
 - Budgeting

Scholarship Sites

<http://www.hercampus.com/career/money/10-best-sites-look-scholarships>

1. Zinch.com

Zinch is a college students one-stop-shop for scholarships that are creative, easy and fun to apply for and win. To apply for scholarships via Zinch, you'll have to create a username and profile that will help the site find scholarships that are specifically relevant to you! One of Zinch's most popular awards is the Weekly [Three Sentence Essay Scholarship](#), where applicants must generate a 280-character essay (that's only two tweets!) while vying for \$1,000 of cold, hard cash.

Scholarship Sites

2. Fastweb.com

Fastweb is another terrific, free resource where you'll find thousands of scholarships at your fingertips. Not only does Fastweb offer a massive database of monetary awards, but it also features helpful career planning services and learning tools for its registered users! One of Fastweb's most recently featured scholarships is the ["Natural Disaster" PSA Video Contest](#), a \$3,000 scholarship offered to creative undergrads with an eye for cinematography and knowledge of the consequences of natural disasters.

Scholarship Sites

3. ScholarshipPoints.com

You know how you always seem to receive a new, complimentary gift after so many purchases at that favorite beauty counter of yours? ScholarshipPoints works the same way! Well, kind of. The site's users rack up points through a rewards system, making them eligible for different scholarships according to how many points they have earned. Members can earn points through fun, day-to-day activities like reading blogs, taking quizzes and playing online games. ScholarshipPoints offers a rolling, monthly \$1,000 for its members and a [quarterly \\$10,000 scholarship](#) . Join today and start earning your points!

Scholarship Sites

4. Cappex.com

You may remember being advised by your high school guidance counselor to make a Cappex account to help narrow down your college search, but don't delete that online profile just yet! The site is still helpful during our undergrad years, offering ample scholarship opportunities and financial advice. Once we're undergrads, Cappex graciously bumps us up to "College Pro" status, where we'll be eligible to apply for a \$2,500 College Pro exclusive scholarship! Don't wait, and check out all of the fine print of the Cappex College Pro scholarship today.

Scholarship Sites

5. Scholarships.com

A no-brainer of a URL, are we right? Scholarships.com is a wonderful resource for college students who aspire to kill two birds with one stone—the site finds both scholarships and colleges that are perfect for you! If you're looking to transfer to a school that is dying to recruit you and offer you scholarships, this is the site to visit. The site allows you to pinpoint specific scholarships by your major, year in school and location, increasing your chances for receiving awards and saving you tons of time. For meticulous proofreaders and aspiring editors, you may want to check out the [Proof-Reading.com Scholarship Program](#) featured on Scholarships.com! Although an essay is required, the \$1,500 you could earn is definitely worth the time spent behind the keyboard.

Scholarship Sites

6. College Board's Scholarship Search

Offering 2,300 sources of financial aid and over \$3 billion in scholarship awards, the College Board's scholarship search resource could put you on the right track to financing your education—and fast! To start your search, be sure to fill out the detailed questionnaire on the site to narrow down specific awards that satisfy your financial needs. While you're browsing the College Board's scholarship selection, see if you're eligible to apply for the [Coca-Cola Community Colleges Academic Scholarship](#)! If you're at a small, local school this \$1,000-\$2,000 award could be right up your alley.

Scholarship Sites

7. NextStudent.com

Formerly known as Scholarships101.com, NextStudent is an online leader in helping undergrads pay for college tuition, books and more. Like most of the aforementioned sites, NextStudent requires its students to set up a user account complete with details like school year, location and major to pinpoint scholarships for you! One of the scholarship matches that NextStudent found for me? [The Stephen J. Brady STOP Hunger Scholarship](#), a \$5,000 award available to any undergrad who has performed community service in the last 12 months, namely in the areas of food service.

Scholarship Sites

8. StudentScholarships.org

StudentScholarships.org is much like NextStudent.com, serving as a powerful search engine for finding relevant scholarships for undergrads. This site is also helpful because it features career profiles for many fields of study, giving its users a good idea of expected salary and job opportunities after graduation. Check out the [Dr. Aura-Lee A. and James Hobbs Pittenger American History Scholarship](#), a \$8,000 scholarship (with \$2,000 paid annually through a four year college career) if you're a collegiette™ interested in American History and Government!

Scholarship Sites

9. ScholarshipExperts.com

This site boasts that it is "fast, easy and free" which is certainly true! ScholarshipExperts.com is yet another great resource for scouring the Internet for great monetary awards during your undergrad years. Check out the ["Courage To Grow" scholarship](#) on the site, which awards eligible undergrads one \$500 scholarship every month.

Scholarship Sites

SuperCollege.com!

This site is an online database of scholarships, grants and fun contests for undergrads to enter and (hopefully) win. On top of offering great scholarships, SuperCollege also offers no-nonsense guides for collegiettes™ like "How to Write a Winning Scholarship Essay" and "More Easy Ways to Save Money in College." For creative collegiettes™ who are savvy with videography and have a way with flashcards, be sure to check out SuperCollege's Flashcard Scholarship worth \$500!

Financial Aid Sites

<http://www.dailyfinance.com/2012/05/08/5-top-websites-for-snaring-college-financial-aid/>

National Association of Student Financial Aid

Administrators: The site offers information under its "Students, Parents & Counselors" tab, where entities dole out financial aid, eligibility for financial aid, and a state-by-state look at various financial-aid programs available.

Financial Aid Sites

The College Board: The site not only offers an overview of financial-aid options, but comes through with such handy features as a [scholarship search tool](#) that scours more than 2,200 programs involving financial aid, scholarships and internships.

Financial Aid Sites

U.S. Department of Education: This site keeps parents and students up to date on changes to Student Aid programs, as well as a free application for federal student aid, or [FAFSA](#), and a tool to get an [early evaluation](#) on financial-aid eligibility.

Financial Aid Sites

[Studentaid.com](https://www.studentaid.com): This comprehensive site is recommended by Mercyhurst College's student [financial services department](#). Although it offers an extensive list of available scholarships, grants, and loans on a customized basis, it does charge a service fee for its report unless household family income is \$40,000 or less. The site rightly notes that fibbing about your income level to qualify for its free report would not generate an accurate representation of the financial aid and other support your student would be eligible to receive.

Financial Aid Sites

[Savingforcollege.com](https://www.savingforcollege.com): In addition to scouring for grants, scholarships, and students loans, there's also the need for parents to sock money away for their kids' college education. Savingforcollege.com provides a wealth of information on 529 savings plans across the nation, as well as financial aid and scholarships.

- College Tour Sites

Video Tour & Interactive Map Production

CampusTours builds video tours, photorealistic interactive campus maps, mobile walking tours and custom data-driven multimedia applications for education, non-profit and government clients worldwide

<http://www.campustours.com/>

College Checklist

<http://www.myfuture.com/schools/tools-checklists/off-to-college>

Bedding Supplies

- *Find out in advance what size bed you get in your dorm. Twin? Or twin extra long?*
- Mattress pad
- Sheet set
- Pillows
- Body pillow (which serves as a great floor pillow as well)
- Pillowcases
- Comforter

College Checklist

Bath and Toiletries

- *Find out what your bath situation is. Do you have your own private bath? Do you share with another room? Is there one big one per floor? You are going to want to consider portability when purchasing bath supplies, especially if you have anything other than a private bath.*
- Antacids Bandages Disinfectant spray Toilet paper Bathrobe Towels Tweezers Tissues Cough drops Shower tote Shampoo Conditioner Hair styling products Face soap Soap container Body wash Comb Contact cleaner Eye drops Deodorant Cotton balls Curling iron Flat iron Blow dryer Cosmetics Cosmetics bag Dental floss Toothbrush Toothpaste Mouthwash Feminine products Lotion Q-Tips Razor Shaving gel Shower shoes

College Checklist

Laundry Supplies

- *Find out where your laundry facilities are located and how far away they are from your dorm. Are they in your dorm? Do they cost money? Do you have to go off-campus?*
- Detergent Dryer sheets Iron Ironing board Clothes hangers
Laundry basket/bag Lint brush Stain remover Quarters Sewing kit

College Checklist

Office and Desk Supplies

- *Think about what your school already offers, and what you like to have when studying.*
- Pens Pencils Notebooks Pocket folders Stapler Highlighters Planner Desk lamp Address book Pencil sharpener Labels 3x5 cards Post-it Notes Paper clips Scissors Ruler Stackable trays Dictionary Thesaurus Stamps Envelopes Calculator Backpack Calendar Tape Pencil cup Rubber bands

College Checklist

Clothing

- *Think about what the climate is like where you will be going to school, and if you will be returning home before the seasons change. If you can avoid bringing clothes for every season at once, do so; clothing space is usually minimal.*
- 20x underwear 20x socks 7x pants 15x shirts Pajamas Heavy jacket Light jacket Gloves Scarf Hat Slippers Boots 2x walking shoes Dress shoes Nylons Purse 1x business attire Athletic shoes Warm-ups Gym clothes Sweaters Shorts Swimwear Watch Bathrobe

College Checklist

Room Needs/Décor

- *Figure out what furniture is provided, if any, and whether you are allowed to hang things on the walls. Some schools don't allow tape or nails on wall surfaces.*
- Bedside lamp Alarm clock Wastebasket Fan Storage cubes
Bulletin board Toolkit Desk lamp Under-bed storage Dry-erase
board Hangers Frames Curtains Floor rug Pictures Posters
Bean bag/chair Throw blanket

College Checklist

Computer Supplies

- *If you are bringing your own computer find out if there is Internet access in your room and what the compatibility requirements are so you can be prepared.*
- Computer Laptop Keyboard Cables Ink CD-ROMs/DVD-Rs
Flash drive Mouse Mouse pad Batteries Battery charger Paper
Printer Phone cord Software Speakers Owner's manuals
Carrying case Headphones Laptop lock

College Checklist

Electronic Supplies

- *Find out what kind of electronics are allowed and supplied in the dorms, and make sure to consult with your roommate – you don't need duplicates of big-ticket items like TVs, DVDs or refrigerators.*
- TV TV remote DVD player DVDs Extension cord Flashlight Stereo MP3 player/iPod Cell phone charger Cell phone Batteries Cable cord Gaming consoles Games Camera Phone/answering machine

- College Checklist

Cooking Supplies

- *Yes, even if you have a cafeteria, there is a good chance you'll want to whip something up in your room. Find out what the policy is at your dorm on cooking, specifically on cooking electronics like microwaves, coffee pots, and hot plates. Some schools allow them and some strictly forbid them.*
- Coffee cups Coffee filters Coffee pot Dishes Silverware
Condiments Seasoning Scrubber Measuring cup Cooking
spray Paper towel Aluminum foil Can opener Water Filter Ziploc
bags Microwave Toaster oven Dorm refrigerator Tupperware
Britta Water Filters

- College Checklist

Food Supplies

- *There will be moments when you feel like “eating in” or having a late night snack in your dorm, so pack some snacks. Don’t mess with perishable food; dry food is best, and stuff that can be stored easily.*
- Bottled water Cereal Juice boxe Soda Peanut butter & jelly Power bars Popcorn Crackers Ramen noodles Mac ‘n’ cheese Coffee Chips Chocolate Nuts

- College Checklist

Cleaning Supplies

- *Living on your own also means you have to pick up after yourself. When it comes to areas like the bathroom and kitchen area, you'll want cleaning supplies on hand.*
- All purpose cleaner Broom Dish cloth Dish soap
Portable vacuum Paper towels Scrub brush Dish
towel Toilet bowl cleaner Garbage bags Dust wipes
Light bulbs Room freshener

- College Checklist

- **Miscellaneous stuff you might need**

- *You want to be prepared for everything, so try to think of unique situations and what you might need to handle them. What would you need for a dentist appointment? If something breaks? If you get bored? Also remember that you will be very busy, so you don't want to bring too much.*
 - Emergency car kit Checkbook Dental card Credit card Social Security Number Spare car key Duct tape Earplugs Emergency contact info Bug spray Board games Driver's license Sun block Beach towel Surge protector Trash can

College Cost Calculator

<http://www.savingforcollege.com/college-savings-calculator/#>

TOOLS & CALCULATORS

[Home / Tools & calculators](#)

World's Simplest* College Cost Calculator

Inputs

Results

Graphs

Tables

Age of child:

Create Report

(Can it get any simpler?)

**And also the most accurate and flexible.*

College Cost Calculator

World's Simplest* College Cost Calculator

Inputs

Results

Graphs

Tables

Results

If your goal is to cover **100%** of the **\$113,141** projected cost of college, you will need to start making **monthly** contributions of **\$2,273** to meet that goal.

[Download PDF Report](#)

Personalize your report & recalculate the results below:

Your child:

Will be attending a college that currently costs \$ annually. [?](#)

Has year until college. [?](#)

Will attend college for years on a basis.

You:

Wish to save enough to pay for % of projected college costs. [?](#)

Wish to meet your savings goal by the time your child college. [?](#)

Currently have \$ in your college savings.

Wish to make contributions to your college savings.

Expect college costs to increase by % per year. [?](#)

Expect to earn % after-tax each year in your college savings plan. [?](#)

[Calculate](#)

Sample Student Aid Report (SAR) Report

<http://www.foundationforroanokevalley.org/pdfs/Student-Aid-Report-example.pdf>



The image shows the header of a Federal Student Aid FAFSA SAR report. It features a blue bar with the text 'Processed Information'. Below this is the 'Federal Student Aid FAFSA' logo in green, with a blue dot matrix graphic to its right. A small box on the right side of the header contains the text: 'Form Approved OMB No. 1845-0001 App. Exp. 12/31/2012'. Below the header, the text reads '2012-2013 Electronic Student Aid Report (SAR)' followed by a paragraph explaining that the SAR summarizes the information submitted on the 2012-2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). At the bottom, a table provides specific details about the application and processing dates and numbers.

Application Receipt Date:	01/11/2012	XXX-XX-1234 JO 01
Processed Date:	01/11/2012	EFC: 7256
		DRN: 4557

Sample Student Aid Report (SAR) Report

Comments About Your Information

Based on the information we have on record for you, your EFC is 7256. You may be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant and other federal student aid. Your school will use your EFC to determine your financial aid eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work study, and possible funding from your state and school.

WHAT YOU MUST DO NOW (Use the checklist below to make sure that all of your issues are resolved.)

If you have now completed your 2011 tax return, you should correct your information to reflect the income and tax information reported on your tax return. Click 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page to make the correction. You may be able to retrieve your tax return information directly from the IRS. If you have not yet completed your tax return, you must correct this SAR to reflect the income and tax information reported on your tax return once it is filed.

If you need to make corrections to your information, click 'Make FAFSA Corrections' on the 'My FAFSA' page. You must use your Federal Student Aid PIN to access your record online. If you need additional help with your SAR, contact your school's financial aid office or the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). If your mailing address or e-mail address changes, you can make the correction online or call 1-800-4-FED-AID and ask a customer service representative to make the change for you.

Sample Student Aid Report (SAR) Report

FAFSA Data

Assumed fields, based on the data you entered, are marked with an '*' (asterisk) sign.

1. Student's Last Name:	JOHNSON
2. Student's First Name:	ANNA
3. Student's Middle Initial:	M
4. Student's Permanent Mailing Address:	123 HOMETOWN STREET
5. Student's Permanent City:	ANYTOWN
6. Student's Permanent State:	MA
7. Student's Permanent ZIP Code:	02115
8. Student's Social Security Number:	XXX-XX-6789
9. Student's Date of Birth:	03/04/1994

Sample Admissions Essay

https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/global/documents/library/essay_outline_worksheet.pdf

Writing Essays

by Eleanor Wakefield

- There are several vital elements to any successful college essay. This handout will define those elements and show you how to put them together using an outline. Following this format will help you keep your thoughts organized and get your essay underway.

Elements of an Essay

- *Introduction: Usually an introduction starts broad and narrows down to your specific topic, ending in the thesis. This is your opportunity to establish why readers might be curious about your general topic, catch their attention, or put your essay in context.*

- Sample Admissions Essay
- *Thesis: Your introduction should end with a clear, specific thesis statement, which will tell readers exactly what your paper will be arguing. Each body paragraph will directly and obviously support your thesis.*
- *Body Paragraphs: An essay usually has at least three body paragraphs, and these will be the arguments, evidence, or topics that support your thesis.*
- *Topic Sentences: Each body paragraph will begin with a topic sentence which introduces its topic. All of the information in that paragraph will be clearly and logically related to that topic sentence, which in turn should obviously relate to the thesis.*

- Sample Admissions Essay
- *Support: You use arguments, data, facts, analysis, quotes, anecdotes, examples, details, etc. to support your topic sentences and flesh out your body paragraphs. A good rule of thumb is to have at least three points to support each topic sentence.*
- *Transitions: An effective essay will show the connection between paragraphs with transitions. These can be the final sentence of each body paragraph or can be integrated into the next topic sentence with transition words.*
- *Conclusion: A conclusion should wrap up your essay, but should not introduce new information or arguments. It should begin with a sentence that looks a lot like your thesis to summarize the general points of the paper as a whole, and then draw your paper neatly to a close.*

- Sample Admissions Essay

ESSAY OUTLINE

I. Introduction:

General info about topic, reason for reader to be interested, context, etc.

Thesis statement:

II. Topic Sentence 1:

A. Support

1. Detail/example/data/explanation
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

B. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

C. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

D. Transition

Sample Admissions Essay

III. Topic Sentence 2:

A. Support

1. Detail/example/data/explanation
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

B. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

C. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

D. Transition

Sample Admissions Essay

IV. Topic Sentence 3:

A. Support

1. Detail/example/data/explanation
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

B. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

C. Support

1. Detail/example/etc.
2. Detail/example/etc.
3. Detail/example/etc.

D. Transition

V. Concluding Paragraph

Re-state thesis:

Summary of main points, return to general context, wrap-up of essay, etc.



THANK YOU
