

CFAUSD Foundation Scholarships

The Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District Foundation handles over 40 scholarships. A student fills out a single application to be considered for any of these scholarships for which a student qualifies. The application must be submitted to Student Services along with any required documentation. The foundation application is typically available the first week of February with an early March deadline. Mark your calendar now because you don't want to miss this opportunity.

Web-based Scholarship Searches

Most of these sites will require a brief personal profile and an email account. As scholarships that match your profile become available an email is sent to notify you. Links to web-based scholarship searches are available from student services website.

There are several reputable companies that provide students with FREE scholarship searches. However, students and parents must be cautioned about "scholarship scams." Feel free to contact your school counselor about a scholarship that requires a fee, credit card number, or guarantees scholarship money.

More Financial Aid Information

If all of this seems overwhelming, complete financial aid information is available at the **Senior Financial Aid Night**. This will be held on October 2 at 6pm in the high school cafeteria. There is also "College Goal Wisconsin" which will be held on October 16 at CVTC, Eau Claire. Families receive help in filling out and submitting their FAFSA. Please visit <http://collegegoalwi.org/locations/> for more information.

Letters of Recommendation

Most scholarships require that students submit letters of recommendation with their application. Student Services has a form that students can complete and give to those they are asking for a recommendation. It will give them information about you that they otherwise might not know.

Tips for Letters of Recommendation

- Ask those that know you well. Letters of recommendation with a personal touch are far more effective.
- Ask that the writer save the letter, electronically (if possible). You may want to personalize the letter for specific scholarships and it's much easier for the writer to change a couple things than to start over.
- Ask for more letters than you need. This way you can choose the ones that best meet the scholarship criteria.
- Allow them time. Two weeks is an appropriate amount of time. If you ask for a recommendation that you need in a day or two, chances are that you will either be told no, or be given a less personalized or meaningful recommendation.
- Say "Thank You." It is important to thank your letter writer personally or with a thank you note.

Things to Know



Paying for College



Nuts & Bolts

Aside from personal savings plans, the two main sources of financial help for college are federal/state aid and scholarships.

Financial Aid programs provides financial assistance for students to help pay for postsecondary education at colleges and universities. This includes career and technical colleges, too!

Federal/state financial aid is available to many students from low to middle income families. Low grades will not curtail the ability to get financial aid. If you think you need financial assistance to attend the school or college you prefer, apply for financial aid. Financial aid is available in the form of:

- Grants – money you are not required to pay back
- Loans – must be repaid
- Work-study – federally subsidized part-time jobs while attending school

Financial aid money is provided by the federal government, the state of Wisconsin, individual schools and colleges, community, business and service organizations, and banks, savings and loan associations and credit unions.

Online Resources:

[CFAUSD Foundation \(Scholarships\) Website](#)

[FastWeb](#): Access to more than one million scholarships

[Financial Aid Information](#): Cost calculators, scholarships, ask questions, etc.

[FAFSA](#): Apply for Financial Aid

[MN/WI Tuition Reciprocity](#)

[Midwest Student Exchange Program](#)

Applying for Financial Aid

In order to be eligible for financial aid, other than scholarships, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA is required by the US Department of Education. This completed application will not only calculate your eligibility for federal aid, but also for state aid and loans. The application is available after October 1 of your senior year in high school. Students and parents are encouraged to apply online but may complete a paper application that can be printed off the FAFSA website at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Paper copies can be requested by writing a letter. The most efficient and effective way is by completing the online application.

The purpose of the FAFSA is to determine if you and your family have “financial need.” This is determined by using a federal formula to calculate the amount you and your parents are expected to pay towards your education. Please note that this does not take into consideration your family’s own expectation about what percentage you are responsible for.

Your Cost of Attendance

(Computed tuition, fees, books, supplies, room & board, transportation and personal expenses)

— Your family contribution

(expected share from you and your parents)

= Your Financial Need

This information is sent to the schools you are applying to. The individual college will inform you of the amount of grant, loan, work-study or scholarship you will be awarded.

Finding Scholarships

In most cases, students must apply for specific scholarships. A limited number of colleges and universities will award scholarships based on all or part of a student’s application for admission. Students should take advantage of every opportunity to apply for scholarships in which they meet the criteria. Although many scholarship applications are difficult and lengthy to complete, the payoff can be a tremendous help.

Student Services posts [scholarships](#) that are sent to Chi-Hi. This includes most national, state and local offerings. Information about scholarships is posted on the Student Services website under College Planning – Paying for College, as well as on the bulletin board in in Student Services. If the application isn’t available online, it will be available in Student Services. Postings are usually updated every other Friday.

Students should treat these applications as professional documents. Be sure to read directions carefully, complete all sections of the application, take your time and put thought into the application. If the application can be filled out by hand, make sure your writing is legible and neat. Use a pen, not a pencil.

Students **must** follow the application procedures. Some applications must be turned into Student Services, while others need to be mailed in by the student. Student Services will not mail applications that are supposed to be mailed by the student. Failure to follow directions could mean missing a deadline.