



## Scholarships/Financial Aid

**Merit Scholarships** - Based on academic, artistic, athletic or other abilities. The most common merit- based scholarships are awarded by universities and recognize academic achievement and high standardized test scores (gpa and ACT). These scholarship applications are completed in the **fall of senior year**. Go online to the school's website for the freshman admissions application/scholarship application.

**Career Specific Scholarships** – These are usually awarded by a university for a specific major and can be awarded in addition to merit scholarships. Check with specific department for those scholarships.

**Need Based Grants** – These awards are based on a family's financial need and require applicants to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This application is done during the senior year, between October 1 and March 15. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**Loans** - Low-interest need based, non-need based loans are available through many agencies. [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) is a free resource for objective and unbiased information.

### Timeline for Senior Year

#### **Spring/Summer Before Senior Year**

Research all types of national scholarships through **free** scholarships search websites. Applications may require documented community service and essays. Juniors should set up an account and begin.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

<https://bigfuture.collegboard.org/scholarship-search>

#### **Fall of Senior Year**

Most scholarships awarded by universities are based on gpa/ACT/SAT. The admission application may also serve as scholarship application - these vary from school to school so check details and adhere to deadlines. Many university applications are ready online by July 1 or August 1, so apply early. Dual enrollment students planning to attend Louisiana Tech will apply for Tech through the dual enrollment application done in September of senior year.

#### **Throughout Senior Year**

Local scholarships are given in the community through clubs, civic groups, businesses, and some churches. Letters of recommendation are required for many of these applications, so take care of obtaining these in a timely manner. These scholarships are announced by the senior counselor and made available to seniors through the school website and English IV classes.



**The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application for TOPS, federally-funded Pell Grants, and loans.** To qualify for TOPS, students must meet the citizenship and residence requirements, core gpa/ACT criteria and file the FAFSA by the deadline. Students need to set up their LOFSA account in order to track their TOPS award.

[www.osfa.la.gov/studenthub](http://www.osfa.la.gov/studenthub)

Apply for TOPS through [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) between Oct 1- March 15 of senior year.

Remember to renew TOPS award each year by reapplying through the FAFSA.