

# **FINANCIAL AID & STEM SCHOLARSHIP STRATEGIES**



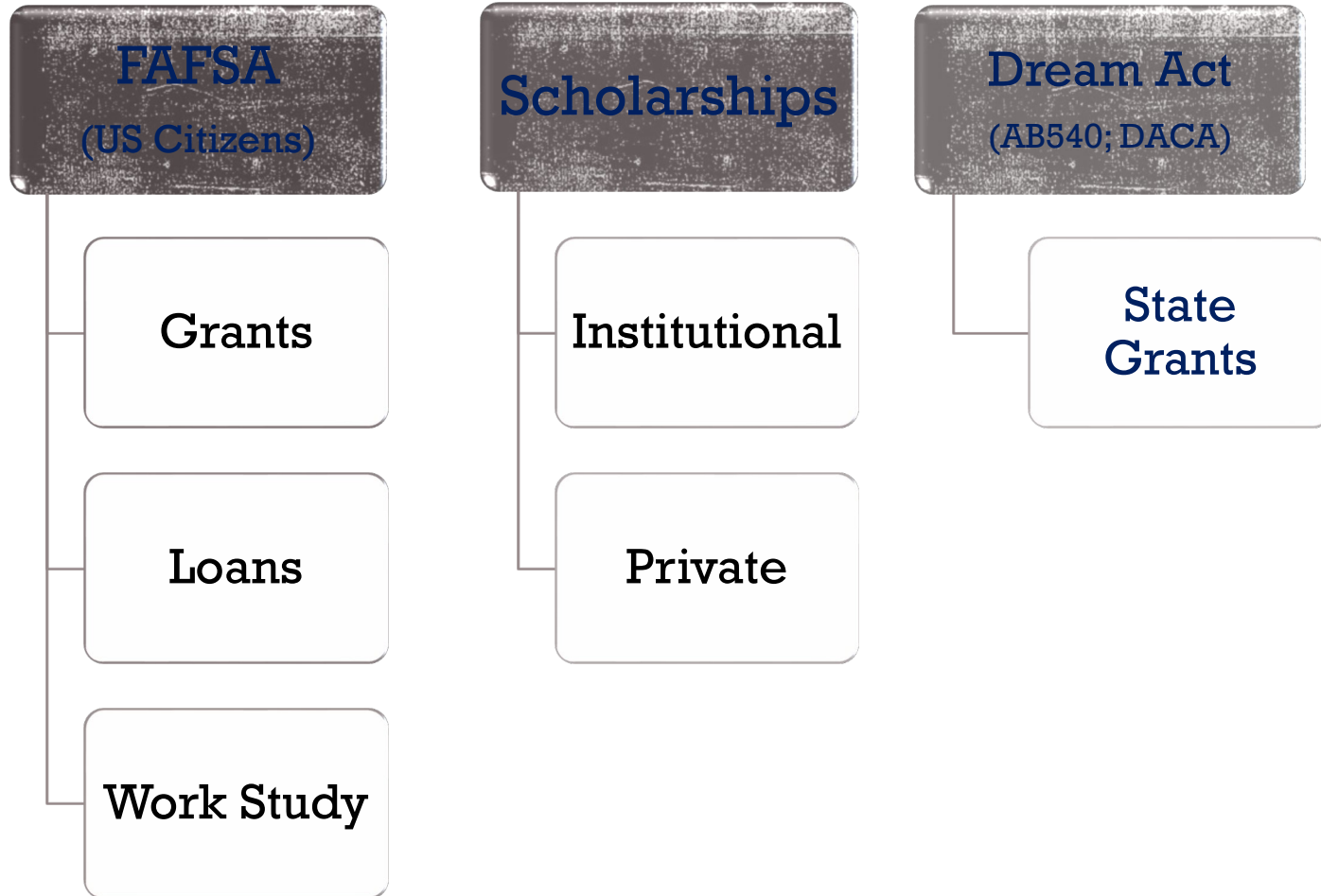
**MESA/STEM**

# OVERVIEW

- **Types of Financial Aid**
- **FAFSA/ CA Dream Act**
- **Types of scholarships**
- **Common scholarship requirements**
- **Scholarship tips**
- **Scholarship resources**



# TYPES OF AID AVAILABLE



# FAFSA

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Grants (Pell, Cal, CCPG/BOG, University)
- Loans (subsidized, unsubsidized)
- Work Study (federal)
- **Process**
  - Apply online (October 1<sup>st</sup> - **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** EVERY year)  
<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
  - Financial Aid Dept receives your information
  - Check myHancock portal
  - Complete necessary documents/forms
  - Award package completed



# CA DREAM ACT

- Grants (Cal Grant, CCPG/BOG, University)
- **Process**
  - Apply online (October 1- **March 2** EVERY year)  
<https://www.csac.ca.gov/>
  - Financial Aid Dept receives your information
  - Check myHancock portal
  - Complete necessary documents/forms
  - Award package completed



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Institutional

- AHC Foundation
- UC Admissions Application
- CSU Independent processes



## Private

- Foundations, businesses (companies may have scholarships available to the children of employees or educational benefits for their employees), charitable organizations, non profits
- Begin researching private aid sources early



# WHY APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

- Helps you pay for academic and living expenses
- Allows you to minimize your work hours
- More time to focus on your academics
- Allows you to be more selective in how you spend your time
- Pick up more academic related experiences
  - Getting involved in clubs
  - Independent projects
  - Internships
  - Job shadowing



# COMMON SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Application
- Completion of FAFSA application
- Personal statement
- Letters of recommendation
- Transcripts
- Interview





# SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

- Explore all your options
- Never pay money for scholarship information
- Consider local opportunities
- Don't waste time on scholarships you are clearly not eligible for
- Be prepared to devote TIME to your search and applying
- Pay close attention to detail, especially when applying to more than one scholarship at a time
- Seek help and allow enough time to develop strong personal statements
- Think positively about yourself and the process
- Select proper people to write letters of recommendation and give them ample time to complete the task
- Follow-up and send thank you letters
- Be persistent and consistent; don't ever quit!



# MAXIMIZING YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING SCHOLARSHIPS

- Apply to various scholarships every year
- Review and understand scholarship requirements
- Invest plenty of time completing applications and collecting all required documents
- Don't miss application deadlines and take the application process seriously



# SCHOLARSHIPS SPECIFIC TO STEM

- Generally have a smaller applicant pool
- You are more likely to win a scholarship that is closely related to your interests, major, qualifications
- <https://www.hancockcollege.edu/mesa/Scholarship.php>



# PERSONAL STATEMENTS



- Don't fear this nor procrastinate... Just start writing
- Allow enough time for draft, review, feedback, corrections, more feedback, grammar help, final revisions
- Be your own best fan... Humbly brag about your accomplishments, skills, strengths, yet be honest
- Get creative and present yourself in a positive light
- Be precise and do not ramble
- Start with something that will “grab” your reader, but do not exaggerate
- Be nice to your reader and have a sensible format(font spacing and margins)



# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Pick your people wisely and strategically
- Allow them plenty of time to complete their task (2 weeks minimum but be prepared for them to need longer)
- Provide your recommender with ample direction and important information about yourself to help them write you a strong letter
- Whenever appropriate, have the letter addressed specifically to the organization or person administering the scholarship (avoid general letters if possible)
- Ask graciously and be thankful!



# KEEPING TRACK OF SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Maintain a personal scholarship binder/file/email
- Organize by due dates
- Track scholarships you are eligible for today/future
- Design a tracking sheet and log the ones you apply for
- Keep record of completed applications on paper & electronically – maintain copies!
- Follow up on the ones you apply for and log outcome
- Get proof of mailing/submitting and store in a handy place



# FINDING SCHOLARSHIPS

- Student Service Centers on campus
  - Financial Aid Department - <https://www.hancockcollege.edu/financialaid/scholarships.php>
- MESA/STEM Center- emails and tool kit
- Counselors/ Instructors
- Library
- The Web!
- Social Media
- MESA/STEM Scholarship Toolkit - <https://www.hancockcollege.edu/mesa/Scho>
- Scholarship List for Women in STEM



<https://www.hancockcollege.edu/mesa/womenengineers.php>



# SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

- [www.hancockcollege.edu/financial\\_aid/scholarships.php](http://www.hancockcollege.edu/financial_aid/scholarships.php)
  - [www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx)
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.collegexpress.com](http://www.collegexpress.com)
  - [www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)
  - [www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)
  - [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
  - [www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
  - [www.collegetoolkit.com](http://www.collegetoolkit.com)
  - [www.fastaid.com](http://www.fastaid.com)
  - [www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)
  - [www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org)
  - [www.onlinemastersprograms.org/financial-aid/scholarships/](http://www.onlinemastersprograms.org/financial-aid/scholarships/)
- **Apply for scholarships every year!**





# ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Most scholarships require that the student enroll in and complete the fall AND spring semesters with at least 6.0 units each semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher.
- Transfer bound students are eligible to apply
- **To apply: Use your myHancock username and password to sign in to the application.**
- Application available every year and due in February

<https://www.hancockcollege.edu/scholarships/index.php?locale=en>



# **SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION OF SANTA BARBARA**

## **General Scholarship Program Applicant Eligibility Requirements**

- Have attended school in Santa Barbara County for at least four of the six years between grades 7-12
- Graduate or receive a G.E.D. from a Santa Barbara County High School\* by June of the current academic year
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or AB 540 eligible
- Current or previous wards of the Santa Barbara County Court (youth in foster care after the age of 13) residing outside of the county are eligible to apply for our General Scholarship Program.
- Application deadline- January 15 mark your calendars!



**QUESTIONS?**

