

## 2009-2010 Quick Reference Guide for College Students

*Here are some important Web sites and dates to help you prepare for your academic year.*

### Web Resources

#### Information about Financial Aid

FastWeb's College Gold	<a href="http://www.collegegold.com">www.collegegold.com</a>
Federal Student Aid for Students	<a href="http://studentaid.ed.gov">studentaid.ed.gov</a>
FinAid	<a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a>
Mapping Your Future	<a href="http://mapping-your-future.org">mapping-your-future.org</a>
Project Scholarship Scam	<a href="http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams">www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams</a>
Taxes for Students	<a href="http://www.irs.gov/individuals/students">www.irs.gov/individuals/students</a>
National Student Loan Database	<a href="http://www.nsls.gov">www.nsls.gov</a>

#### Sources of Aid

Scholarship Search	<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>
*AmeriCorps	<a href="http://www.americorps.org">www.americorps.org</a>
*City Year	<a href="http://www.cityyear.org">www.cityyear.org</a>
CSS/PROFILE	<a href="http://profileonline.collegeboard.com">profileonline.collegeboard.com</a>
Direct Loans	<a href="http://www.ed.gov/directloan">www.ed.gov/directloan</a>
FAFSA (Free App. for Federal Student Aid)	<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>
FAFSA PIN	<a href="http://www.pin.ed.gov">www.pin.ed.gov</a>
Resources by State	<a href="http://finaid.org/otheraid/state.phtml">finaid.org/otheraid/state.phtml</a>

*\*Award upon successful program completion*

#### General Information

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration	<a href="http://uscis.gov">uscis.gov</a>
Project Scholarship Scam	<a href="http://ftc.gov/scholarshipscams">ftc.gov/scholarshipscams</a>
Social Security Administration	<a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>
Study Abroad	<a href="http://www.studyabroad.com">www.studyabroad.com</a>
U.S. Department of Education	<a href="http://www.ed.gov">www.ed.gov</a>
Security on Campus	<a href="http://www.securityoncampus.org">www.securityoncampus.org</a>

#### Graduate Admissions and Testing

GRE	<a href="http://www.ets.org/gre">www.ets.org/gre</a>
LSAT	<a href="http://www.lsac.org">www.lsac.org</a>
GMAT	<a href="http://www.mba.com/mba">www.mba.com/mba</a>
MCAT	<a href="http://www.aamc.org/mcat">www.aamc.org/mcat</a>

#### Choosing a Major and Career

Career Planning	<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>
MonsterCollege	<a href="http://college.monster.com">college.monster.com</a>
America's Career Infonet	<a href="http://www.acinet.org">www.acinet.org</a>
Bureau of Labor Statistics	<a href="http://stats.bls.gov">stats.bls.gov</a>
Occupational Outlook Handbook	<a href="http://www.bls.gov/oco">www.bls.gov/oco</a>

### 2009 - 2010 Planning Calendar

#### Fall

- Make sure to complete any remaining financial aid paperwork, and contact your financial aid office if you have any question or concerns with your awards.
- Take a financial literacy mini-course, if offered by the college
- Set up a budget and time management calendar for the year, including financial aid and scholarship deadlines.
- Visit your academic advisor/career center to discuss courses, career-building and other activities.
- Gather financial aid records and materials you need for the FAFSA. The form is available January 1st.
- Join clubs and community services groups in your areas of interest.
- Search for scholarships at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and apply for scholarships.
- Build relationships with professors, counselors and activity supervisors. This will help you obtain recommendations for jobs and graduate school.

#### Winter

- Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 to increase your chances of receiving financial aid.
- Check your FastWeb search results for new scholarships.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Maintain a resume that includes academic records, extracurricular activities, honors and volunteer work.
- Prepare for summer by searching early for jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities.

#### Spring

- Meet with your faculty advisor to discuss plans for summer and next fall.
- Keep track of your student loans. Are you borrowing too much?
- Register for fall classes.
- Renew your financial aid package for next year.
- Don't forget about the Hope Scholarship tax credit and other education tax benefits that can save you a little money on your federal income taxes.
- Explore options such as study abroad, double major, co-op programs, international internships, mentoring programs, and independent study.
- Apply for summer jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities.

## Scholarship Scams

### Scam Warning Signs

- You have to pay a fee
- Money-back offers or guarantees
- Credit card or bank account information required
- Provides "exclusive" information

### Scams: "Phishing" & Pharming"

#### "Phishing"

- Unsolicited emails that bear the logo of your bank or credit card
- Appear legitimate but are traps to lure you into giving out your personal or account information

NEVER give out Social Security, credit card, or bank account numbers to unsolicited emails or calls

#### "Pharming"

- Unsolicited emails that encourage you to visit a website or click on suspicious links
- Make sure your inbox spam filters are up to date

BE CAREFUL to whom you give out your contact information or email address

## Reporting Scams

### National Fraud Information Center (NFIC)

File an online complaint at [www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams), call 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357), or write to:

Federal Trade Commission  
Consumer Response Center  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20580

### State Attorney General's Office

File your complaint with the Consumer Protection Division in your state. Visit [www.naag.org](http://www.naag.org) to find your state Attorney General's Office

### US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)

File an online complaint involving mail fraud at <http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov> or call the Crime Hotline at 1-877-876-2455, or write to:

Inspection Service Support Group  
222 S. Riverside Plaza  
Suite 1250  
Chicago, IL 60606-6100

## Loan Information

### Perkins Loan

Awarded based on exceptional need. Interest is subsidized and fixed at 5%. Favorable benefits may be lost upon consolidation.

REPAYMENT begins 9 months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment status.

### Stafford Loan

Subsidized rate is 6% for undergrads  
Unsubsidized rate is 5.6%

REPAYMENT begins 6 months after graduation or after dropping below half-time enrollment status.

### Stafford Loan Limits

Dependent freshmen: \$5,500  
Independent freshmen: \$9,500  
(max \$3,500 in subsidized loans)  
Dependent sophomores: \$6,500  
Independent sophomores: \$10,500  
(max \$4,500 in subsidized loans)  
Dependent Junior/Senior: \$7,500  
Independent Junior/Senior: \$12,500  
(max \$5,500 in subsidized loans)

### Parent PLUS Loan

If loan originated on/after July 1, 2006:  
Direct PLUS fixed interest rate is 7.9%  
FFEL PLUS fixed interest rate is 8.5%

REPAYMENT begins 60 days after full disbursement, or 6 months after student graduates or drops below half-time. Interest continues to accrue during deferment.

### Federal Consolidation Loan

Combine loans to one lender.  
Fixed interest rate is the weighted average of the loans rounded up to the nearest 1/8 of a % and capped at 8.25%.  
Lower monthly payments through alternate payment plans.

### Private/Alternative Loan

Eligibility, interest rate and fees based on better of borrower and cosigner credit scores.  
More expensive than Federal loans.

### Repayment Options

Standard – 10 years, level payments

Extended – 12-30 years, level payments

Graduated – payments start small, increase every 2 years (for 12-30 years)

Income Contingent – payment pegged to discretionary income (up to 25 years), capped at 20% (AGI – 100% Poverty Line)

Income-Based – payment pegged to discretionary income (up to 25 years), capped at 15% (AGI – 150% Poverty Line)