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

Common Scams
“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 about giving out your contact information or email address

Reporting Scams
National Fraud Information Center (NFIC)
File an online complaint at www.fraud.org
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
File an online complaint at www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams, call 202-326-2222, or write to: Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20580
State Attorney General’s Office
File your complaint with the Consumer Protection Division in your state. Visit www.naag.org to find your state Attorney General’s Office
US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)
File an online complaint involving mail fraud at postalinspectors.uspis.gov, call the Crime Hotline at 877-876-2455 or write to: Criminal Investigative Service Center 222 S. Riverside Plaza, Ste. 1250 Chicago, IL 60606-6100
Better Business Bureau (BBB)
File an online complaint about a business at www.bbb.org or call 703-276-0100

2020-2021 Key Dates for High School Students
September 2020
National College Savings Month
October 2020
Remind students: FAFSA application period begins, submit ASAP to maximize chances for aid
November 2020
National Scholarship Month
January 2021
Remind students: Complete FAFSA & Submit
February 2021
Financial Aid Awareness Month
April 2021
National Financial Literacy Month, Federal income tax due for 2020 - April 15th
May 2021
National Candidates’ Reply Date - May 1st
June 2021
Last day to submit 2021-2022 FAFSA - June 30th

2020-2021 Test Dates
Due to Covid-19, test dates are subject to change by the testing entity. Below is information on test entities and where to confirm test dates:
ACT (American College Testing)
www.act.org
AP (Advanced Placement)
apcentral.collegeboard.com
CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)
clep.collegeboard.org
PSAT (Preliminary SAT) / NMSQT
(National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)
colgareadness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsat-psat-10
SAT and SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) Subject Tests
colgareadness.collegeboard.org/sat

Fastweb Educator Resources
Share Fastweb with your students, order free printed materials find online tools:
www.fastweb.com/educators
Have a question or comment:
memberservices@fastweb.com

Contacts
Associations/Organizations
ACA (American Counseling Association)
membershi…@counseling.org
www.counseling.org
ASCA (American School Counselor Association)
asca@schoolcounselor.org
www.schoolcounselor.org
The College Board
www.collegeboard.com
NACAC
(National Association for College Admission Counseling)
info@nacacnet.org
www.nacacnet.org
NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)
info@nasfaa.org
www.nasfaa.org
NCAN (National College Access Network)
ncan@collegeaccess.org
www.collegeaccess.org
NSPA (National Scholarship Providers Assoc)
nspa@scholarshipproviders.org
www.scholarshipproviders.org

Government Departments
U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
FSAC (Federal Student Aid Information Center)
studentaidhelp.ed.gov
NCES (National Center for Education Statistics)
www.nces.ed.gov

Have a question or comment?
memberservices@fastweb.com
Quick Reference 2020–21

College & Career
College Admissions
College Search
www.fastweb.com/college-search
Common Application
www.commonapp.org
Educational Opportunity Centers Program
www2.ed.gov/programs/trioeoc
Job Corps
www.jobcorps.gov
NACAC College Fairs
www.nacacfairs.org

Jobs & Career
Monster Career Advice
www.monster.com/career-advice/career-levels/entry-level
Fastweb Part-Time Jobs
www.fastweb.com/part-time-jobs
Career Planning
www.fastweb.com/career-planning
Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov

Web Resources
ERIC (Education Resources Info Center)
www.eric.ed.gov
College Insight
www.college-insight.org
Student Tax Info
www.irs.gov/individuals/students
National Center for Education Statistics
nces.ed.gov
Selective Service System
www.sss.gov
Social Security Administration
www.ssa.gov
TRIO Programs
www.capecol.org
U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov

Financial Aid
Important Resources
Fastweb for Educators
www.fastweb.com/educators
Finaid
www.finaid.org
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
FSA ID Management
FAFSA 4Caster
https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/estimate
CSS PROFILE
https://cssprofile.collegeboard.com
Federal Student Aid for Counselors
financialaid/oakkit.ed.gov
Federal Student Aid for Students
www.studentaid.ed.gov
IFAP
(Information for Financial Aid Professionals)
www.ifap.ed.gov
Mapping Your Future
www.mappingyourfuture.org
NASFAA
(National Association of Financial Aid Administrators)
www.nasfaa.org
NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling)
www.nacacnet.org
FTC Project Scholarship Scam
www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
OPE (Office of Postsecondary Education)
www.ed.gov/ope
Guide to Federal Student Aid
www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide
Financial Aid Calculators
www.finaid.org/calculators

Higher Ed News & Views
Chronicle of Higher Education
www.chronicle.com
Higher Education Watch
www.higheredwatch.org
Inside Higher Ed
www.insidehighered.com

Federal Loans
US Dept. of Education
The US Dept of Education offers low-interest loans to cover cost of college or career school.
Direct Subsidized Loan
For undergrad students with financial need
School determines amount and may not exceed financial need. Dept of Education pays interest while in school at least half time
Direct Unsubsidized Loan
For undergrad and grad students enrolled no requirement to demonstrate financial need
School determines amount based on cost of attendance and other financial aid. Student is responsible for interest
Direct PLUS Loan
For grad or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students
Loan amount is maximum cost of attendance. Credit check required. Dept. of Education is the lender
Private Loans
Students should borrow with federal loans first which are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private/student loans. Eligibility, interest rate and fees for private loans based on credit scores
More information on private/alternative loans at www.finaid.org/loans/

More Student Aid Resources
Scholarship Search
www.fastweb.com
AmeriCorps
www.americorps.gov
City Year
www.cityyear.org
Student Loans
www.studentaid.ed.gov/loans
EdupASS: International Students
www.edupass.org

Share Fastweb with your students, order free printed materials:
www.fastweb.com/educators
Have a question or comment:
memberservices@fastweb.com