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Future editions of the Academic Bulletin will be available on the IUSD website. (Previous editions are also available online.) [http://www.iusd.org/parent\\_resources/academic.htm](http://www.iusd.org/parent_resources/academic.htm)



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## Beware: Scholarship Scams

Every year, several hundred thousand students and parents are defrauded by scholarship scams. The victims of these scams lose more than \$100 million annually. Scam operations often imitate legitimate government agencies, grant-giving foundations, education lenders and scholarship matching services, using official-sounding names containing words like “National,” “Federal,” “Foundation,” or “Administration.”

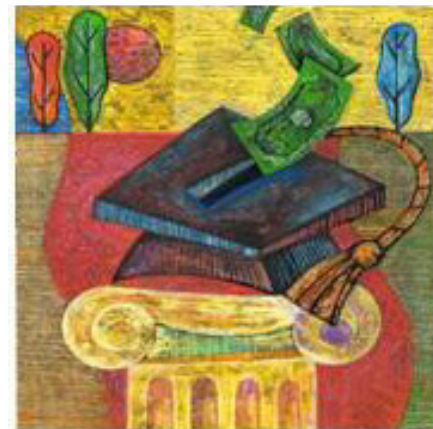
In general, be wary of scholarships with an application fee, scholarship matching services who guarantee success, advance-fee loan scams and sales pitches disguised as financial aid “seminars.”

If you have to pay money to get money, it’s probably a scam. Look for these tell-tale signs of scholarship scams...

**Scholarships that Never Materialize.** Many scams encourage you to send them money up front, but provide little or nothing in exchange. Usually victims write off the expense, thinking that they simply didn’t win the scholarship.

**Scholarships for Profit.** This scam looks just like a real scholarship program, but requires an application fee. The typical scam receives 5,000 to 10,000 applications and charges fees of \$5 to \$35. These scams can afford to pay out a \$1,000 scholarship or two and still pocket a hefty profit, if they happen to award any scholarships at all. Your odds of winning a scholarship from such scams are less than your chances of striking it rich in the lottery.

**The Advance-Fee Loan.** This scam offers you an unusually low-interest educational loan, with the requirement that you pay a fee before you receive the loan. When you pay the money, the promised loan never materializes. Real



educational loans deduct the fees from the disbursement check. They never require an up-front fee when you submit the application. If the loan is not issued by a bank or other recognized lender, it is probably a scam. Show the offer to your local bank manager to get their advice.

**The Scholarship Prize.** This scam tells you that you’ve won a college scholarship worth thousands of dollars, but requires that you pay a “disbursement” or “redemption” fee or the taxes before they can release your prize. If someone says you’ve won a prize and you don’t remember entering the contest or submitting an application, be suspicious.

**The Guaranteed Scholarship Search Service.** Beware of scholarship matching services that guarantee you’ll win a scholarship or they’ll refund your money. They may simply pocket your money and disappear, or if they do send you a report of matching scholarships, you’ll find it extremely difficult to qualify for a refund.

**Investment Required for Federal Loans.** Insurance companies and brokerage firms sometimes offer free financial aid seminars that are actually sales pitches for insurance, annuity and investment products. When a sales pitch implies that purchasing such a product is a prerequisite to receiving federal student aid, it violates federal regulations and state insurance laws.

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## SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

(Continued from page 1)

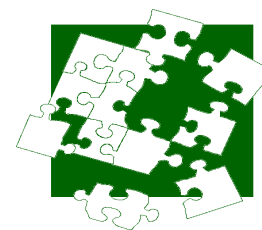
**Free Seminar.** You may receive a letter advertising a free financial aid seminar or “interviews” for financial assistance. Sometimes the seminars do provide some useful information, but often they are cleverly disguised sales pitches for financial aid consulting services (e.g., maximize your eligibility for financial aid), investment products, scholarship matching services and overpriced student loans.

According to the “Federal Trade Commission’s Scholarship Scams,” if you or your child hears these lines from a scholarship service, you may be getting duped:

- **“The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”** No one can guarantee that they’ll get your child a grant or a scholarship. Refund guarantees often have conditions or strings attached. Get refund policies in writing—before you or your child pays.
- **“You can’t get this information anywhere else.”** There are many free lists of scholarships available. You and your child should start researching scholarships at the high school or library before you decide to pay someone to do the work for you.
- **“I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship.”** You or your child shouldn’t give out credit card or bank account number on the phone without getting information in writing first. It may be the set-up for an unauthorized withdrawal from your account.
- **“We’ll do all the work.”** Don’t be fooled. There’s no way around it. Your child must apply for scholarships or grants himself.
- **“The scholarship will cost money.”** Don’t pay anyone who claims to be “holding” a scholarship or grant for your child. Free money shouldn’t cost a thing.
- **“You’ve been selected by a national foundation” to receive a scholarship or “You’re a finalist” in a contest you never entered.** Before you or your child sends money to apply for a scholarship, check it out. Make sure the foundation or program is legitimate.

Every year, students and parents are defrauded by scholarship scams. If you’re not sure about a scholarship source bring the information to your counselor and he/she can help decipher the information.

## COLLEGE ADMISSION Game Plan



### Juniors

- Get ready and then register for the May and/or June SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests. Log on to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and visit the SAT Preparation Center to take a free full-length official practice test and get a score and skills report.
- Start visiting local colleges: large, small, public, and private (spring break is a great time!)
- Prepare for the AP Exams. Do well and receive credit or placement at most colleges.
- Plan your senior year schedule with your counselor. Challenge yourself with honors and AP classes.
- Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or sign up for special summer learning programs.

### Seniors

- **The Letters are Rolling In!** You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Compare financial aid awards from different colleges. Talk to financial aid officers if you have questions.
- **MAY 1ST. . . FINAL DECISION TIME!** You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1st. Send a deposit to the college you choose.
- Wait listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application.

## LAST CHANCE THIS SCHOOL YEAR!!

To register for the  
**SAT Reasoning & SAT Subject Tests**  
log on to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>Late</u>
June 2	Apr. 27	May 9



To register for the  
**ACT**  
log on to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>Late</u>
June 9	May 4	May 5-18

# INTERNSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Internships are one of the most important ways students gain experience and start to make contacts within their field. College students hold most of the available internships but more opportunities are now available for high school students looking to get valuable work experience.

## Why intern in high school?

The idea of pursuing an internship probably doesn't cross most high school students' minds, which is an excellent reason to pursue one. Work experience at a respected company or organization, especially if it's related to a field one might pursue in college, will only strengthen one's college applications. It's a great way to stand out from the crowd.

Secondly, an internship will allow an individual to explore potential careers and courses of study for college. One might confirm that newspaper journalism is the career of one's dreams, or find out that software programming isn't exactly how one had imagined it. One may also discover other fields and positions that hadn't considered before.

Finally, an internship can help a person understand how a professional organization operates. Within that organization one gains access to valuable contacts who may lead one to other opportunities as you progress through school.

## Where to find an internship?

Some organizations like Microsoft, the Museum of Modern Art and the Smithsonian have formal internship programs designed for high school students. Typically, these programs are limited to students in the region. One should research companies in industry of interest and check their Web sites for opportunities.

Internships are not just available with large corporations in urban areas either. Often local newspapers, museums and other businesses will offer internship opportunities. Start asking around at local business associations to see what is available in the community.

Don't give up if these companies don't formally list an internship program for high school students. Try to identify a human resources representative or department manager one can send an email or letter to. Ask parents, friends' parents, relatives and anyone else who might be willing to help if they're aware of any opportunities. Contact professional organizations in one's area of interest.

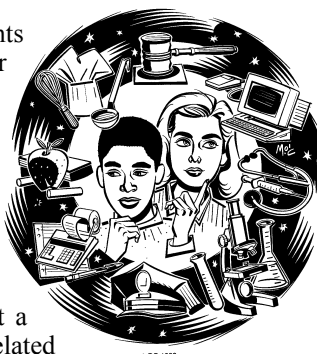
## How to apply

Companies with formal internship programs generally have specific procedures outlined on his/her Web sites. If one is trying to create one's own opportunity, one should craft a one-page resume that outlines his/her skills, education and interests along with a cover letter that explains his/her interest in their organization.

## Internship programs

Below are links to some internship programs designed specifically for high school students. Each one has different qualifications and parameters, so be sure to read the information carefully. If she/he doesn't see a program that's right in the list, one should access the Internet, your local library and personal connections to uncover other opportunities.

SOURCE: Stephen Borkowski for fastweb



## Volunteer ... or Get an Internship

Volunteer activities are important for your personal and professional development—and it also looks good on your college application. While volunteering places a greater demand on your time, it provides many benefits, including:

- Helps you explore career options
- Cultivates responsibility
- Provides a “real world,” “adult” environment in which to learn
- Benefits the community
- Improves discipline and people skills
- Provides task/goal-oriented activities
- Enriches your life

**PARENTS:** Your involvement is very important if your children are considering volunteering. They will need your help to organize their time and to stay on track.

SOURCE: [www.uctv.tv/collegebound](http://www.uctv.tv/collegebound)

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS:

Microsoft

<http://www.microsoft.com/college/highschool/>

Museum of Modern Art

[http://www.moma.org/education/internships\\_high.html](http://www.moma.org/education/internships_high.html)

Smithsonian

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/rtp/ret/ramhssindex.html>

Rockefeller University

<http://www.rockefeller.edu/outreach/students.php>

Berkeley Center for Science and Engineering Education

<http://www.lbl.gov/Education/CSEE/hssrpp.html>

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/funding/training/redbook/hsnihbio.htm>

Johns Hopkins University: Materials Research Science and Engineering Center

<http://www.pha.jhu.edu/groups/mrsec/11/hsstudents/>



**College fairs are one of** the best sources of information if you're looking to continue your education beyond high school. There you'll find the information that, if used properly, can help you make the all-important decision of what to do next. But when there are other resources, such as the Internet and tons of viewbooks sent in the mail, why should you attend a college fair? Though text-based resources are valuable, they lack the one-to-one contact with school representatives that fairs provide. College representatives can give you specific information about their college's programs and campus that you might not find in a brochure. College fairs offer the opportunity to get your questions answered, narrow your choices and make a difficult decision a little easier. Before you go, read this.

### ***Finding a fair***

There are numerous fairs offered in the spring and fall. "In the spring of their junior year of high school, students start to take part in local and regional fairs," says Tom Fletcher, a university admissions officer. "Between your junior and senior years, you can visit those colleges. Then in the fall, seniors can touch base with those schools again." **The Orange County College Fair was held Sunday, April 22nd at the Anaheim Convention Center.**

### ***Go prepared***

Your research should begin before the fair. If you don't do your homework, you'll find yourself meandering from booth to booth picking up more pamphlets than you'll ever read. Fletcher recommends that you make a list of schools about which you'd like to learn more. Think about the size, location, cost and housing opportunities you expect from a college. This list will give your search direction, allowing you to make the most of your time at the fair. Once you have a general idea of the booths you want to visit, write down questions for the school representatives concerning admission requirements, costs, majors and help for those who are still undecided. Fletcher suggests also considering the school's campus, job opportunities, extracurricular activities and career-counseling services. College fair representatives are there to answer your questions. "Representatives, depending on the size of the fair, are able to give a significant amount of time to people who have specific questions," Fletcher says. Fletcher also says it's important to keep a personal profile of your class rank, grade point average, SAT scores and special talents on hand to give representatives an idea of your educational background. Once you have your list of schools, questions and personal information, you're ready to go.

### ***At the Fair***

All those booths filled with material can be overwhelming. It can be confusing to visit booth after booth and remember who said what. Feel free to take notes. Representatives are willing to invest more time in someone who appears to be taking the fair seriously. Ask representatives for their business cards and phone numbers. This will give you a contact at the school should you have further questions. Visit the booths of the schools on your list first, but don't feel you must stick strictly to the colleges you chose beforehand. There might be a school you overlooked that meets your requirements. Along with a bag of pamphlets and catalogs, you should leave the fair with answers to your pre-determined questions. Leave the fair confident that you have done something positive to help your college decision. But your work is not done yet. Compare the information to find the school that best meets your needs. Write what you liked or disliked about each school to help you sort through the large amounts of material you've received. Use every opportunity you have to visit a fair, and get exposure to as many different colleges as you can. Taking advantage of college fairs now will help you sort through your choices!








SOURCE: [www.nextstepmagazine.com](http://www.nextstepmagazine.com)



## Writing the Scholarship Essay



The personal essay. It's the hardest part of your scholarship application. But it's also the part of the application where the 'real you' can shine through. Make a hit with these tips from scholarship providers:

-  **Think before you write.** Brainstorm to generate some good ideas and then create an outline to help you get going.
-  **Be original.** The judges may be asked to review hundreds of essays. It's your job to make your essay stand out from the rest. So be creative in your answers.
-  **Show, don't tell.** Use stories, examples and anecdotes to individualize your essay and demonstrate the point you want to make. By using specifics, you'll avoid vagueness and generalities and make a stronger impression.
-  **Develop a theme.** Don't simply list all your achievements. Decide on a theme you want to convey that sums up the impression you want to make. Write about experiences that develop that theme.
-  **Know your audience.** Personal essays are not "one size fits all." Write a new essay for each application—one that fits the interests and requirements of that scholarship organization. You're asking to be selected as the representative for that group. The essay is your chance to show how you are the ideal representative.
-  **Submit an essay that is neat and readable.** Make sure your essay is neatly typed, and that there is a lot of white space on the page. Double-space the essay, and provide adequate margins (1" to 1-1/2") on all sides.
-  **Make sure your essay is well written.** Proofread carefully, check spelling and grammar and share your essay with friends or teachers. Another pair of eyes can catch errors you might miss.

SOURCE: Kay Peterson, Ph.D. for Fastweb

## HIDDEN COLLEGE COSTS

You've calculated tuition costs, figured in room, board and books. You've even checked out scholarships and grants, filled out the FAFSA and budgeted for day-to-day expenses like groceries and laundry money. You've covered all your financial bases.

Yet even with careful planning, you may encounter college costs that take you by surprise. These costs crop up in the form of "miscellaneous fees" charged by your school for services or as penalties. Some colleges and universities provide lists of these fees on their Web sites. More often students learn of these fees only after they have incurred them.

Here are some fees to be aware of:

**Application and admission:** These fees don't just apply when you enter school as a college freshman. You may find them added to your tuition statement or sent as a separate bill if you take a leave of absence or even if you transfer to another "school" (e.g. from School of Speech to Journalism School) within your college or university.

**Course materials / laboratory use:** You might assume that these fees would be built into tuition, but frequently materials-intensive classes (ranging from art to engineering) will saddle you with additional required costs.

**Card replacement:** Hang onto your student ID and meal card to avoid paying replacement fees (usually \$15-\$20).

**Late tuition payment:** Penalties for late payment are stiff, generally ranging from \$50 to \$100.

**Service fees for cancellation, adding / dropping classes and late or changing registration:** A little preparation can mean significant savings in change of registration fees. If you like to "shop around" for classes, do so the semester before you plan to register.



**Official documents:** Just because you've completed coursework, don't think you'll get those records for free! Transcripts, diplomas and "good student" auto insurance certification all come at a price.

**Missed student health appointments:** Many schools charge for missed appointments with health services. It pays to call ahead.

**Degree candidacy / degree processing / thesis and dissertation filing:** These fees generally apply to graduate students, although special undergraduate programs may charge them as well.

**Returned checks:** Don't bounce checks to your school! Not only will your bank charge you, the school may also charge you as much as \$60.

**Dorm damage:** Just like a landlord, your school reserves the right to bill you for wear and tear to its housing facilities for anything ranging from broken fixtures to adhesive tape left on the walls.

How can you get advance warning of these hidden costs? Some fees are automatic — practically every school will charge you for late tuition payments, card replacements and returned checks. Your best bet for dealing with these sorts of fees is to call the appropriate office in advance and explain your special case (e.g. if you need a replacement card because your wallet was stolen). Many offices will make allowances for extenuating circumstances.

To find out more about course material fees, try calling the department offering the courses. You will probably still have to pay the added fees, but you'll at least get some advance warning so you can adjust your budget accordingly. You might also be able to get some of the necessary materials at a discount or secondhand.

For general service and official document fees, call either your registrar's office or your bursar's office to request a complete list of fees.

SOURCE: Kathleen Carmichael, Ph.D. for Fastweb

# AP Student Information... Day of Exam

## WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU:

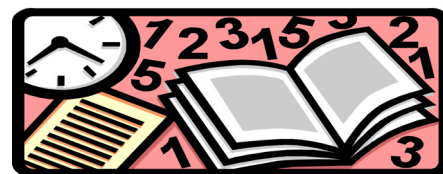
- Picture ID (school ID/Driver's License) !!!!
- Your social security number. If you provide the number, it is used for identification and appears on your AP Grade Reports. If you have taken an exam and did not give your SS#, do not do so on any future exams.
- Small snack for a very short break!
- Several sharpened #2 pencils (with erasers) and sharpener for all multiple-choice answer sheets.
- Black or dark blue ballpoint pens for free response questions in most exams.
- A watch (in case your exam room does not have a clock you can see easily). You are responsible for pacing yourself during the exam.
- Calculators for the Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Physics B, Physics C, and Statistics examinations. See the exam descriptions beginning on page 4 of booklet for restrictions on the types of calculators you may use on these exams. Calculators may not be shared with other students. Unless permission is expressly given on a particular exam, calculator use is not allowed.
- A ruler or straight edge for the Physics exams only.

## WHAT NOT TO BRING WITH YOU:

- ✓ Watches that beep or have an alarm, portable listening or recording devices - even with headphones - photographic equipment, beepers or cellular phones. Students who bring these into the testing room will be dismissed from test per Collegeboard instructions.
- ✓ BACKPACKS
- ✓ Books, dictionaries, notes, scratch paper, compasses, highlighters, rulers, straightedges and calculators (except as previously noted).
- ✓ Typewriting equipment, computers (except as noted under specific subjects).
- ✓ Clothing (t-shirts, for example) with subject related information.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- ◆ To leave campus after testing, you must have a note with the exact time, date and signature of parent. NO EXCEPTIONS (NO telephone calls allowed).
- ◆ The morning tests begin at 7:00 a.m.; the afternoon tests at 11:30 a.m.
- ◆ Scores, with an explanation are sent to your home in July.
- ◆ Scores can range from 1-5; some colleges accept 3, most accept 4 & 5.
- ◆ Advanced Placement or college credit is given for accepted scores.
- ◆ To receive credit for IB or AP exams, students are responsible for having test-score transcripts sent to the campus which they are enrolling.
- ◆ Any student can take the exam.
- ◆ No refunds are given.



## GUESSING ON THE EXAMS

Scores on the multiple-choice sections of the AP Exams are based on the number of questions answered correctly minus a fraction of the number of questions answered incorrectly. No points are awarded or deducted for unanswered questions. For questions with five answer choices, one-fourth of a point is subtracted for every wrong answer. For questions with four answer choices, one-third of a point is deducted for every wrong answer. Thus, random guessing is unlikely to raise or lower your grade. However, if you have some knowledge of the question, and can eliminate one or more answer choices, informed guessing from among the remaining choices is usually to your advantage.

## 2007 Exam Schedule

Date	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 noon	
Mon., May 7	Gov't & Politics: US	Gov't & Politics: Comparative French Language	
Tues., May 8	Computer Science A & AB Spanish Language	Statistics	
Wed., May 9	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Chinese Language & Culture	
Thurs., May 10	Eng. Literature German Language	Japanese Language & Culture French Literature	
Fri., May 11	U.S. History	European History Studio Art (portfolios due)	
Week 2			
Date	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 noon	Afternoon 2 p.m.
Mon., May 14	Biology Music Theory	Physics B Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
Tues., May 15	Environmental Science Chemistry	Psychology	
Wed., May 16	Italian Language & Culture English Language	Art History	
Thurs., May 17	Macroeconomics World History	Microeconomics	
Fri., May 18	Human Geography Spanish Literature	Latin Literature Latin: Vergil	



## Borrowing for College: How Much is Too Much?

Too much of a good thing can be bad, as Shakespeare demonstrated, and the axiom is true of student borrowing for college. Students may believe it is difficult enough worrying about the big exam next week or whom to take to the spring dance. Yet students must stretch themselves and imagine a much greater consequence, years into the future, when they consider how much money to borrow to pay for a higher education.

After all, the average price of a private college has hit \$88,872, and a public college, \$23,344, according to the College Board's "[Trends in College Pricing 2006](#)" report. The implications are enormous.

The first step is to try to avoid borrowing in the first place, experts say. "Students should thoroughly explore scholarships, grants and community service awards before they begin borrowing for college," said Marianne Ragins, author of *Winning Scholarships for College* and publisher of [ScholarshipWorkshop.com](#), based in Centreville, Virginia.

The next step is to set up a budget based on the salary you'll likely make after you graduate from college, Ragins said. Students can check average starting salaries in their field at Web sites such as Salary.com and the U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#).

Most importantly, students must view each dollar they borrow for college as a dollar that they will be unable to spend to buy such essentials as a car, a house, or to start a family, and a dollar that they cannot put into a retirement-savings account. "It's important for families to work that through, to write down numbers and understand what you are signing up for," said Rita

Johnson, a financial advisor at the Millstone Evans Group of Raymond James & Associates, a brokerage firm in Boulder, Colorado.

If there is ever a time for discipline and independence, this is it, experts say. That's because lenders are in the business of urging students to borrow as much as possible, and won't warn of the financial consequences.

Also, beware of a list of preferred lenders from college financial aid offices. By shopping around for lenders, students and their families may find better deals on their own.

After students come up with a number for the amount they expect to borrow, they should make sure the loan amount, plus other expected debts such as rent and car payments, do not exceed 33 percent of their expected future income, Johnson said. Free online calculators are available to help put together a budget and estimate future costs. If college-loan and other debts consume more than a third of future income, look for alternatives. For example, your budget might look like this:

(Budget based on roughly \$30,000 net yearly salary.)

Rent	\$550
Debt	\$130
Phone	\$45
Utilities	\$100
Cable/Internet	\$20
Food	\$100
Car/Insurance	\$205
Personal	\$240
Medical	\$100
Savings	\$110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>
(take home after taxes)	

"It's going to be each student's decision – is it absolutely worth it to me to go to the University of Chicago rather than to a public college, or must I go to Juilliard or another outstanding 'name' college

rather than a cheaper alternative?" said Johnson.

Students must take into account new laws and policies that make debts nearly impossible to write off. Student loans are no longer easily swept away under today's tougher bankruptcy laws. The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 extended non-dischargeable debt to student loans from private lenders, so they cannot be automatically written off. Instead, people seeking bankruptcy protection must prove that they cannot repay a student loan and still maintain a minimally adequate standard of living.

Furthermore, interest rates are going up on student loans, so students will pay more in the future to get rid of the debt. In June 2006, the interest rate on Stafford loans increased from 5.3 to 7.14 percent on existing loans and to 6.8 percent on new loans. The jump translated into \$2,000 in additional interest payments for the typical undergraduate borrower who graduated with \$17,500 in debt.

The idea that using credit cards to pay for college will be easier is a delusion with terrible consequences, said Robert M. Manning, author of *Credit Card Nation* and director of the Center for Consumer Financial Services at the Rochester Institute of Technology's College of Business. Credit cards carry even higher fees than traditional student loans, leaving the unsuspecting to fall into a situation where it would take their entire lifetimes to pay off a credit-card debt, Manning said. Students who want to attend graduate school or another professional school after college must include those debts in any calculation of their future standard of living, Manning said.

"It forces people to say, 'If I'm going to graduate with \$50,000 of student-loan debt, how am I going to make it on a \$40,000 salary?'" he said.

SOURCE: Sandra Guy for fastweb



# Summer Opportunities...

Summer break is a great time for you to pursue interests and gain experience through paid or volunteer jobs, internships, and other activities. And don't forget, college admission officers see meaningful summer activities as a demonstration of commitment and responsibility.

## Tap Your Network

One of the best ways to find opportunities is simply by asking people you know, a.k.a. networking. Start with your parents, friends, teachers, counselors, and relatives. If you've already got something in mind, tell them. They may have suggestions you haven't thought of, and may know people you can contact for more information.

Here are some suggestions to help you start your brainstorming:

### 1. Think Big

The world's a big place; see if you can come up with an idea to match. Start thinking about what you would really like to do. For example, do you enjoy the outdoors and hiking? Look into becoming a counselor-in-training at a summer camp or getting a job at a national park—almost all of them hire summer help. Of course, you'll have to get permission to range too far from home, but don't limit yourself. See how crazy an idea you can come up with. Let someone else say, "no."

### 2. Think About Careers

If you already have an idea about a career you'd like to pursue, summer break is your chance to test the real thing against your expectations. You may be anything from an aspiring attorney to a would-be bookstore owner. Start by calling up businesses and organizations that are related to your interests, and find out if they need any help. Even if they're not hiring, they

may have suggestions you can use to continue your search. Consider pursuing a paid or unpaid internship.

### 3. Think About Creating Your Own Job

During your job search you're likely to come across a potential employer that just can't afford to hire you. If you're really interested in working there, offer your services for free. The job skills you gain may be worth their weight in gold—just as you pay college professors to teach, work experience can be equally valuable. Treat unpaid jobs and internships as you would a paid position. Be on time, pay attention, and work hard. In return you'll get great skills, a glowing recommendation, and maybe even an offer of a paid position down the road.

### 4. Think About Creating Your Own Business

Being your own boss definitely has its rewards. Be warned though, it can be hard work, too! But don't let that scare you off if you really want to try going it on your own. There are lots of potential small businesses you could try to create. For example, if you know a foreign language, people may pay you to teach them how to speak it. Or, if you're good with plants, you could spend the summer as a landscaper. Start calling people now and see if you can line up a few clients.

### 5. Think About Getting More Involved

Consider exploring the interests you pursue during the school year more in-depth. If you have a job that really interests you, consider asking not just for more hours but more responsibility, to expand your experience and knowledge. Sticking with one organization or job gives you depth and breadth—and shows you've made a real commitment.

### 6. Think About Not Getting a Job

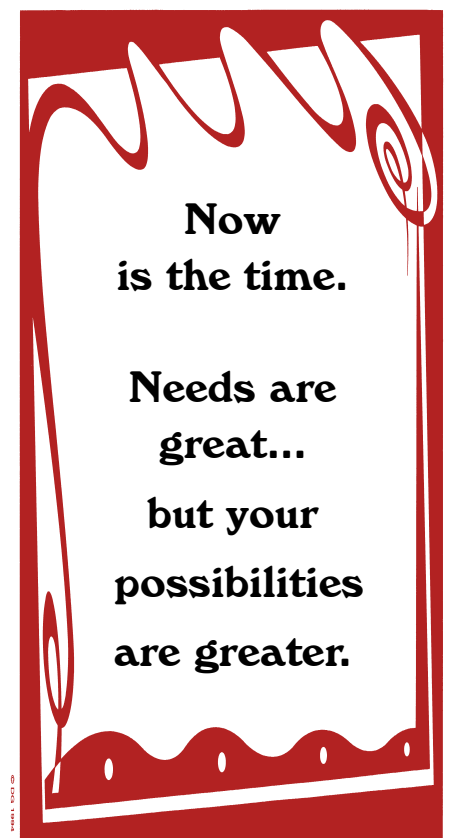
Colleges, of course, like to see that

students have kept busy doing something constructive with their summer vacations, but that doesn't necessarily mean you have to have a traditional job. Maybe you're really into acting or dance or sports and you want to devote your full-time energy to formally developing those skills. Not only are there special programs out there, but most colleges will allow high school students to take an actual college class.

### 7. Think About Volunteering

Spending a summer pitching in at a local charity is a great way to learn about life and yourself. And it can help you develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

SOURCE: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)



## NINE COLLEGE MYTHS. . . (And Why They're Just Not True)

You know how it's said that college is one big party? It's a myth. Or how you've been told that your roommate will be a total creep, you'll need to maintain a 4.0 GPA, and that crashing parties and getting drunk are the norm? Myth, myth, myth.

There are so many widely circulated myths about college that it's typical for students to reach college and find out that it's absolutely nothing like what they expected!

To make sure that there aren't any unwelcome surprises, we've decided to debunk some of the common myths for you. How many of these have you bought into?

### **Myth: Without a good SAT score, no college will accept you**

**Truth:** No amount of good SAT scores are going to cover up for the fact that you slacked off in high school. That doesn't mean that your SAT or ACT scores don't count. But it does mean that your test scores will be used in combination with your curriculum, grades and rank—not as the only factor. According to Patricia Maben, director of enrollment management at Hartwick College, some schools will emphasize SAT/ACT scores as heavily as they do your GPA and rank. Others use them as a general guidepost to gauge your potential to succeed in college. And others don't use test scores at all.

"The most important component of your high school academic record is the strength of the coursework (Did you take the required classes, and did you challenge yourself when appropriate?) and the grades you receive," Maben says.

### **Myth: You need to search for the perfect college**

**Truth:** The fact is, there is no such thing as the "perfect" college. "That's like saying there is only one person in this world who is the right mate," says

Lisa Jacobson, founder and CEO of *Inspirica*. "It is just too narrow a view."

What you have to find is the college that is right for you. "The right school is the place where you feel comfortable and confident enough to explore your interests," says Maben. "College is a time to learn what engages and excites you academically. What better place to have that experience than at the school that feels the best to you?"

### **Myth: You need to decide your major before you begin college**

**Truth:** Um, no. With approximately 70 percent of college students changing their majors before graduating, we say it's no big deal if you haven't decided on one before you head to college. It is wise to have a general direction of where you're headed, but you probably won't need to declare a major until the end of your sophomore year. So why pin down the specifics until you've actually attended a few classes and found what really interests you?

"I think students should focus on one day at a time," says Jacobson. "You may find that, once you're there, a particular course given in your junior year or a professor you meet at some point just pushes you in a completely different direction."

### **Myth: Your college friendships will last a lifetime**

**Truth:** Some do, some don't. But if you're headed to college thinking that you'll either make no friends or that everyone will be your friend, listen up. That's not going to happen. Friendships will happen. But there's no guarantee on how great they'll be or how long they'll last. That said, you're going to be more popular if you take the time to say "hi" to someone you don't know or pass on a smile to a random stranger than if you stay standoffish and stick to a corner of the room. If you're looking for like-minded people to hang out with, seek out an activity or club and get involved.

### **Myth: Homesickness is for babies**

**Truth:** "That's ridiculous," say Kent and Kyle Healy, students at Saddleback College and Goldenwest College, respectively, and authors of the book *Cool Stuff They Should Teach in School*.

"There's nothing wrong with missing Mom's cooking or working on the car with your dad." In fact, they say that a lot of their friends have said that being away from home for the first time really helped them appreciate how good they had it for the first 18 years.

Instead of fighting homesickness, try to overcome it by interacting with your new friends, calling home once in a while, getting involved in other activities and talking to your RA when you need help.

"Look at it this way—now you've got the best of both worlds," say the Healys. "You've got the independence and the support of your family. You also have the opportunity to go home, share your new set of experiences with good old Mom and Dad (and little brothers or sisters if you've got 'em), and then get the heck out of there before they drive you nuts again!"

### **Myth: You will hate your roommate**

**Truth:** Not necessarily. You never know, you might end up being the best of friends. "In general, there are more great friendships made than anything else," says Maben. "The bottom line is that students need to be prepared to get along with their roommate; be open to different perspectives, cultures and personalities. People with open minds and a good dose of patience are likely to have the best college roommate experiences."

And while we're on the topic, ever been told you should live alone rather than with a roommate? *Wrong, wrong, wrong.*



According to Harlan Cohen, author of *The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College*, assuming that you don't go to prison, college is the only time in your life when you get to live with a total stranger. To live with someone of a different culture, religion or lifestyle is invaluable. Sharing a space with a roommate opens you up to making new friends, dealing with conflict, appreciating differences and learning about yourself. Cohen says that even the nightmare roommate offers something of value—once the nightmare ends.

**Myth: Once you're in college, it's too late to apply for scholarships**

**Truth:** You can always apply for scholarships. In fact, some scholarships aren't even available to high school students and are only available to you once you've picked your major. "Seek out your financial aid counselors," advises Maben. "They are there to help you at all stages of your college experience—from prospective students to seniors." In addition, she suggests searching [Web sites](#) for scholarships for college students.

**Myth: It's better to get good grades than to take challenging courses**

**Truth:** "You need to take the courses that provide the skills," says Dr. Neal Prochnow, an education consultant and author of *Get Out of College and Get On With Your Career*.

As an example, he says that many students avoid Speech 101. "This is the worst thing you can do. It should be taken early on, and significant time (should) be spent to do well," he says. Prochnow says that taking courses that teach you critical skills will help you once you're out of college and in the real world.

Jean Branan, director of career services at The Art Institute of California-San Diego, agrees. "Every academic pro-

gram has its grade requirements. However, the challenging courses will put you a step ahead in a competitive career market. A student should think in terms of, 'What will strengthen my résumé?'"

**Myth: If you don't get good grades, no one's ever going to employ you**

**Truth:** Sure, grades are important, but don't go believing that they're the only things that count. Real-world experience, your personality and your aptitude for the job count much more than any number of A's you earned in college.

"More important are the contributions you'll be bringing to your new employer," says Branan. "Professionalism, competency to perform job skills, a great attitude and even a sense of humor have topped the 'wish lists' of employers when hiring."

Branan says that it all boils down to one important question: "Would I want to work with this person on a daily basis?"

SOURCE: Mridu Khullar

**JUNIOR COLLEGE INFO....**

Are you planning on attending a local junior college next year?  
Find more information and registration deadlines.  
Go online or call today!!

**Orange Coast College .....714.432.5072**  
[www.orangecoastcollege.edu](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu)

**Irvine Valley College.....949.451.5461**  
[www.ivc.edu](http://www.ivc.edu)

**Santa Ana College .....714.564.6015**  
[www.sac.edu](http://www.sac.edu)

**Santiago Canyon College .....714.628.4901**  
[www.sccollege.edu](http://www.sccollege.edu)

**Saddleback College.....949.582.4555**  
[www.saddleback.edu](http://www.saddleback.edu)



# SCHOLARSHIPS

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## Sun Trust Off to College Scholarship

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

Award: varies

Eligibility: Students of hispanic heritage, U.S. citizen or legal resident, 3.0 GPA or higher, apply for FAFSA. Many various scholarships available. Check out the website!!

Website: [www.hsf.net/scholarships.php](http://www.hsf.net/scholarships.php)

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## A. Bannister Scholarship

Award: \$1,200

Eligibility: Seniors planning on majoring in arts, business, pre-law or law. Essay of 500 words or less on why you think you are deserving of the scholarship.

Website: [www.surrey-lawyers.com/philanthropy.htm](http://www.surrey-lawyers.com/philanthropy.htm)

Deadline: June 15, 2007

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## Irvine Valley College Scholarship

Award: see website

Eligibility: Seniors with financial need planning to attend Irvine Valley College.

Website: [www.ivc.edu/finaid](http://www.ivc.edu/finaid)

Deadline: When filing your application to attend

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## Leonardo Da Vinci Scholarship

Award: \$1,500

Eligibility: Students between the ages of 16 and 25. 500 word essay that answers the following question: Of the countless accomplishments that Leonardo Da Vinci has made in the field of art, science, mathematics, etc., what do you believe is his most significant accomplishment?

Website: [www.leonardo-davinci.org/leonardo-da-vinci-scholarship.php](http://www.leonardo-davinci.org/leonardo-da-vinci-scholarship.php)

Deadline: July 15, 2007

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## Apple Scholars Program

Award: \$2,000

Eligibility: Seniors who will attend a 2-year or 4-year accredited college or university in the fall of 2007. Demonstrate innovative use of technology in academics and how you use technology to solve problems creatively and learn more intuitively.

Website: [www.apple.com/education/students/scholars/](http://www.apple.com/education/students/scholars/)

Deadline: May 15, 2007

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## Elder & Leemaar Publishers "Challenge the Experts"

Award: up to \$10,000

Eligibility: Juniors and seniors and undergraduate students. You must submit an essay of 500 words or less addressing one of the topics on the sponsor's site.

Website: [www.elpublishers.com/content/scholarship-challengetheexperts.php](http://www.elpublishers.com/content/scholarship-challengetheexperts.php)

Deadline: July 1, 2007

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