

Educational Funding Options

Created for Park City High School – 2009/2010

Academic Achievement-

1. National Merit Scholarships- U.S Academic scholarships funded through the private, non-profit organization, The National Merit Scholarship Corporation. About 50,000 scholarships are awarded nationwide every year. The purpose of the scholarship is “to identify and honor academically talented U.S high school students, to stimulate increased support for their education and to provide efficient and effective scholarship program management for organizations that wish to sponsor college undergraduate scholarships.” (www.nationalmerit.org)
2. Institutional Academic Scholarships – Academic scholarships given out to all who meet the requirements. These scholarships are regulated by each institution. They range from full-ride tuition to \$1,000 per year. See the website for each college and university for the criteria.
3. Utah New Century Scholarships- A Utah scholarship that is “awarded to high school graduates who have accelerated their education process and have completed the requirements for an associate degree prior to September 1 of the same year they would normally graduate with their high school class.” (<http://www.rules.utah.gov>) For more information, visit www.utahnewcentury.org.
4. Utah Regent’s Scholarship - The Regents’ Scholarship was created in March 2008 as an incentive for students to complete the Utah Scholars Core Course of Study during high school. The Regents’ Scholarship encourages Utah high school students to prepare for college academically and financially by taking a core course of study and saving for college. The Scholarship may be used at any public college or university in the Utah System of Higher Education, as well as at Brigham Young University, LDS Business College, and Westminster College. <http://www.utahsbr.edu/scholarships>.
5. The Sterling Scholar Awards are open to Utah public high school seniors. Each school may nominate only one student in each of 13 categories. A student may be nominated in only one category. To be selected a Sterling Scholar nominee, students must have extraordinary scholarship scores as well as service in leadership and community service/citizenship opportunities at their Utah public high school. It is up to each public high school to determine if an individual has been in attendance enough to experience these leadership and community service/citizenship opportunities.
6. National Scholarships – Scholarships given from various organizations’ to provide outstanding high school achievers with educational opportunities. There are many scholarship search sites- be careful not to pay or participate in scams.

Athletic, Music or other Achievement-

7. Institutional Talent Awards- Awards and Scholarships given out by each institution's departments. The department governs all the award amount, requirements, and recipients. Typically, students need to be working toward a degree in that department. Often, additional portfolios, auditions, or essays are necessary.
8. Institutional Private Awards- Awards given to students at schools from private sponsors.
9. See National Scholarship sites for other private scholarships.

Military Scholarships-

10. Over \$300 million in scholarship money is awarded to those who are service members, veterans and family members. (<http://education.military.com>)
11. The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is a college-based, officer-commissioning program, predominantly in the United States. It is designed as a college elective that focuses on leadership development, problem solving, strategic planning, and professional ethics. ROTC participants can often attend college free of charge but are required to serve in the military branch for several years in repayment of the college tuition.

Financial need-

12. Federal Pell Grants – Money given from the government to students who qualify. This money does not need to be paid back. For more information, please visit the institution's Financial Aid Office, www.fafsa.gov, or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4FED –AID.
13. Federal Academic Competiveness Grants – Government-funded grant awarded to undergraduate students in their first or second year as a degree-seeking student. Students need to have a GPA of at least a 3.0/4.0 to qualify. This grant provides up to \$750 for freshman and up to \$1,300 for sophomores. For more information visit the institution's Federal Aid office or call the Federal Student Aid information Center at 1-800-4FED-AID.
14. Federal SMART Grants- Government-funded grant providing up to \$4,000 for each of the third and fourth years of undergraduate study, in addition to Pell Grants. The applicant needs to have at least a 3.0/4.0 and be enrolled in one of the eligible majors. For more information, please visit the institution's financial aid office, or call the federal student aid information center at 1-800-4FED-AID.
15. Federal Stafford Subsidized Loans- Government loans granted to students. This money will need to be paid back, but only when the student has not been taking classes for six months. The government pays the accruing interest while the student is still in school. For more information, please visit the institution's

Financial Aid Office or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4FED-AID.

16. Perkins Loan- The Federal Perkins Loan Program provides low-interest student loans based on financial need. Repayment for the Perkins Loan begins 9 months after you graduate or drop below half-time enrollment.
17. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)- A needs-based grant awarded to students with the lowest Expected Family Contributions. Priority for the FSEOF is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients. Eligible students can receive up to \$4,000 per year.
18. TEACH grant – provides awards to students who intend to teach primary or secondary education in a public or private school that serves students from low-income families. Recipients commit to teach full-time for a minimum of 4 academic years. This grant award will be converted to a Federal Stafford Unsubsidized Loan if you fail to complete the TEACH commitment.
19. PLUS Loan- The PLUS Loan is available to parents of dependent undergraduates. This is a government funded, low-interest loan to help pay for college expenses of undergraduate, dependent children. Parents must complete a Master Promissory Note and not have adverse credit history. Parents can repay 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed or 6 months after you drop below half-time enrollment status.
20. See National Scholarship sites for other private scholarships. Horatio Alger and Daniel’s Fund are two examples.

Western Regional Scholarships-

21. The WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE) is a program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Students who are residents of WICHE states may enroll at participating two- and four-year college programs outside of their home state at a reduced tuition rate. WICHE states include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming. For more information; <http://wue.wiche.edu/>

PCHS Community Scholarships-

22. Various scholarships given to students by generous organizations in Park City. Applications available in March, Awards selected by June and checks received in the fall of the year.

Important Financial Aid Process-

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as early as possible. In January of each year. More information is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Contact the financial aid office at the institution you or your student plans to attend to explore other financial resources.
- Complete the CSS Financial Aid Profile at [College Board.org](http://CollegeBoard.org) to estimate financial need.
- Organize college search and apply for other grants and/or scholarships. For more information go to utahfutures.org.
- Consider the following; on-campus Student Employment- (Work Study) Working on campus as part of your financial aid package.
- Off-campus Student Employment- Working at a company that is not associated with the institution the student attends. Frequently the employer has a tuition reimbursement policy and will allow the employee to take courses during work hours.
- Institutional Short-term loans – Each institution grants student loans to allow the student have more time to pay their tuition. Short- term loans are typically due about halfway through the semester or term they were borrowed for.