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# STEM SCHOLARSHIP STRATEGIES

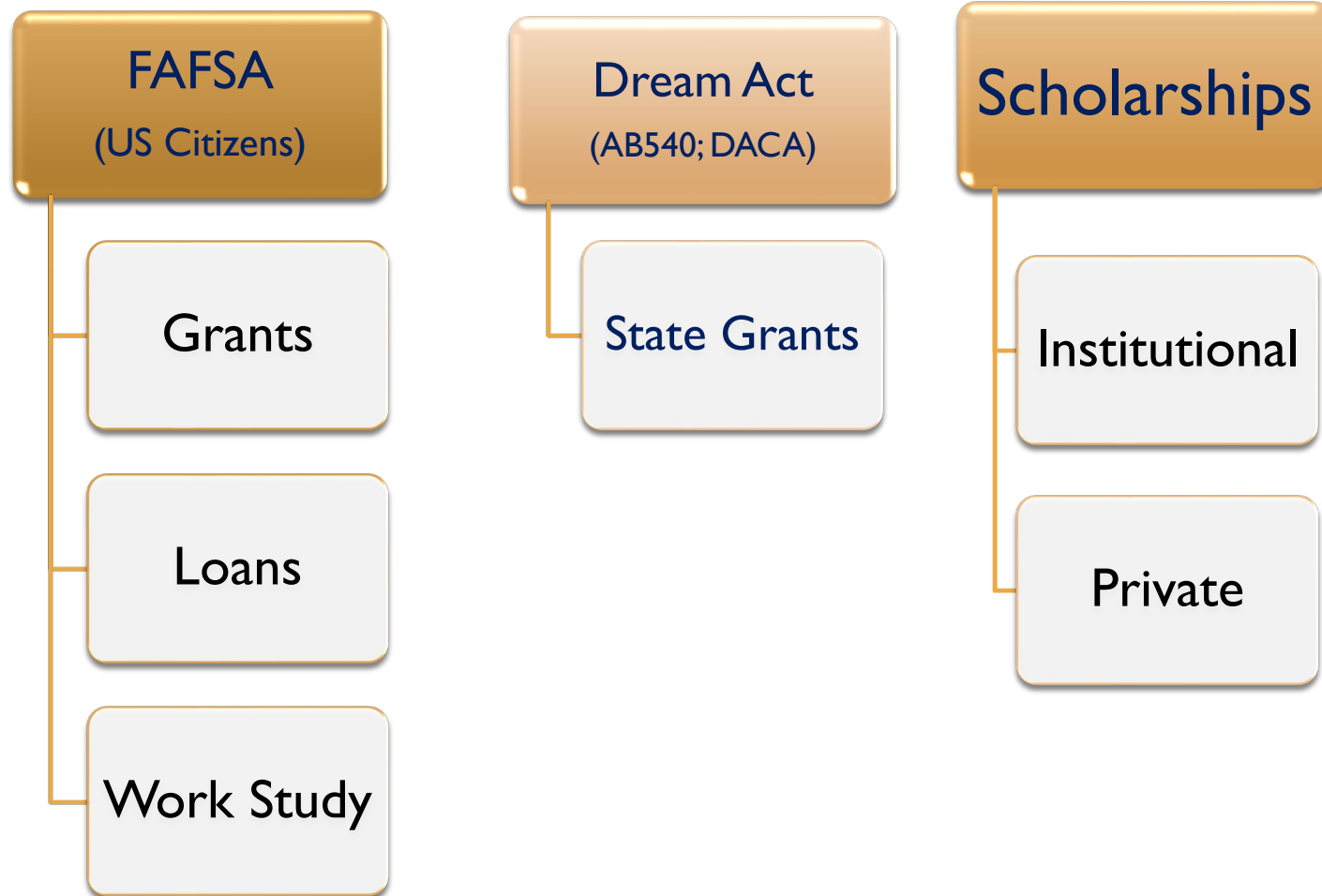
California Central Coast Community College  
Collaborative (C6) sponsored STEM Student  
Presentations – Fall 2023



# OVERVIEW

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

# TYPES OF AID AVAILABLE



# FAFSA

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



# CA DREAM ACT

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

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## Institutional

- Colleges Foundation Office
- 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 or CA Dream Act 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!
- Use scholarship tracking sheet!

# 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

- Counselors/ Instructors

- Library

- The Web!

- Social Media

- AHC MESA/STEM Scholarship Toolkit -

<https://www.hancockcollege.edu/mesa/Scholarship.pnp>

- Scholarship List for Women in STEM

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





# SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

- [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/)
- <https://buildyourfuture.withgoogle.com/scholarships/generation-google-scholarship>

■ **Apply for scholarships regularly!**



Questions?

