

Scholarship & Financial Aid Assistance

If you are considering applying for financial aid or scholarship assistance, be on the lookout for unscrupulous companies that contact you by telephone, direct mail, or the internet offering educational scholarships, grants, or other financial aid assistance. They may indicate that they have insider's knowledge or contacts that virtually assure you financial aid. These types of companies may claim they can guarantee scholarships, grants, or extraordinary financial aid packages in exchange for an advance fee. In reality, many provide only a list of possible sources for scholarships, grants, and/or loans.

In some instances you are told that in order to qualify, you must provide your checking account or credit card number to confirm eligibility. The account or credit card is then debited without your consent. You should not provide any personal information until you have verified that the request for information is legitimate.

The BBB recommends that you first check with your school directly on how to apply for scholarships, grants, and other financial aid. Schools have designated financial aid staff that specializes in assisting students with financial aid questions. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Education indicates that if you are seeking federal student aid, you can apply directly on their website or request an application.

The U.S. Department of Education provides all information including applications at no cost. You can visit their website at www.fafsa.ed.gov or call them directly at (800) 433-3243 or (319) 337-5665.

Before making any purchase, always be sure to obtain a BBB report as part of your decision making process.