

# **Important College Facts for Students**

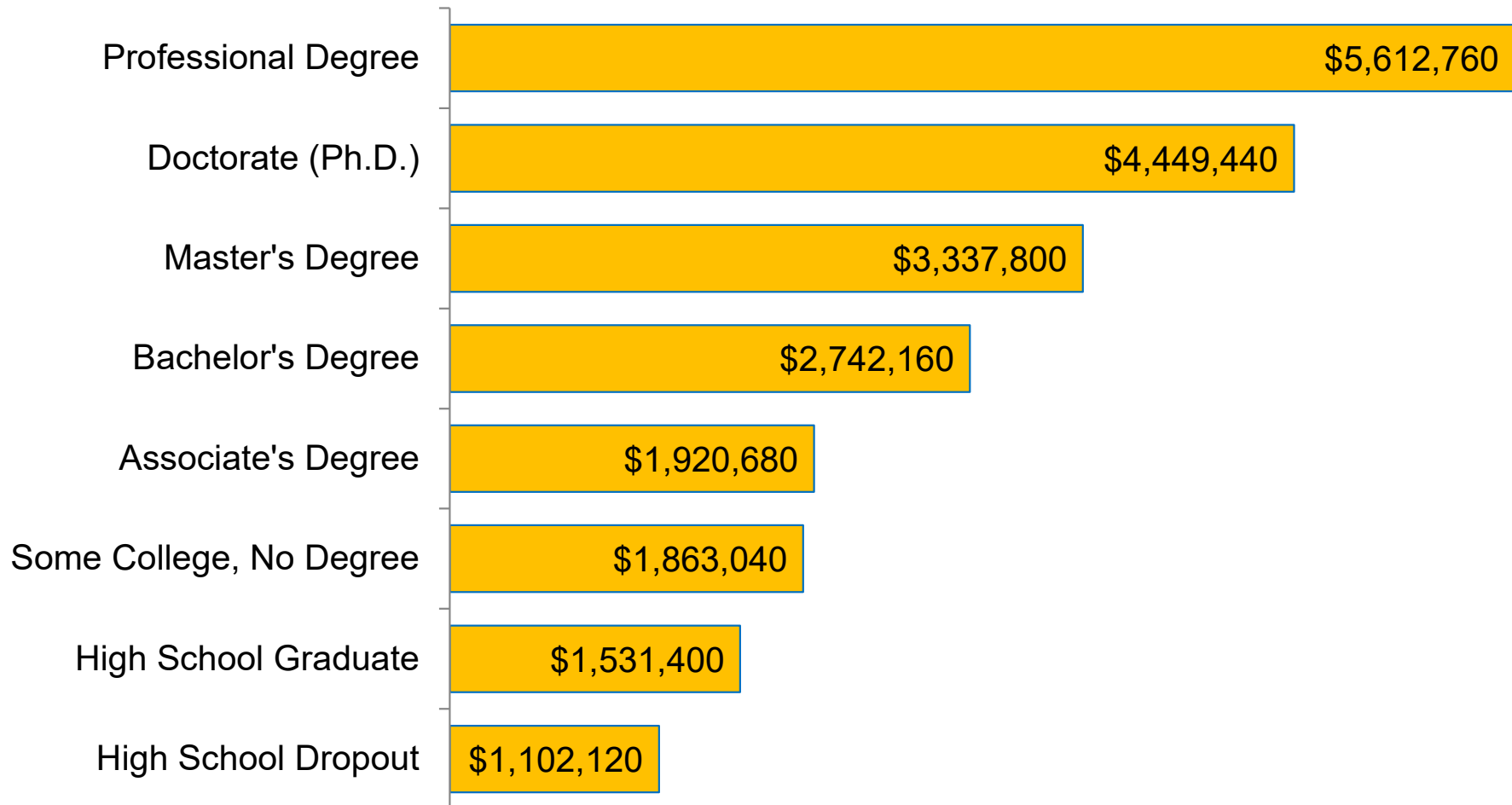
- Why Should You Go To College?
  - College is the pathway to success and a better life
  - College graduates earn more money and get better jobs
  - Unemployment rates are lower for college graduates
  - College will help you help your family
  - College is a lot of fun!
- A Who's Who of Famous College Graduates
- How Do You Pay for College?

# Pathways to Success and a Better Life

- College opens doors to opportunity and expands your horizons.
- Graduating from college will be a source of pride because it is a great accomplishment.
- You get to follow your dreams and determine your future!

# College Graduates Earn More Money

## Average Lifetime Earnings



# Earn More Staying School

- High school *graduates* earn \$430,000 more over their lifetimes than high school *dropouts*.
- Double your income by graduating from college.
  - An Associate's degree is worth \$390,000 more than a high school diploma.
  - A Bachelor's degree is worth \$1.2 million more than a high school diploma.
  - A Doctorate (Ph.D.) is worth \$1.7 million more than a Bachelor's degree.
  - A Professional (law or medical) degree is worth \$2.9 million more than a Bachelor's degree.

# College is a Pathway to Opportunity

*In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a prerequisite.*

– President Barack Obama

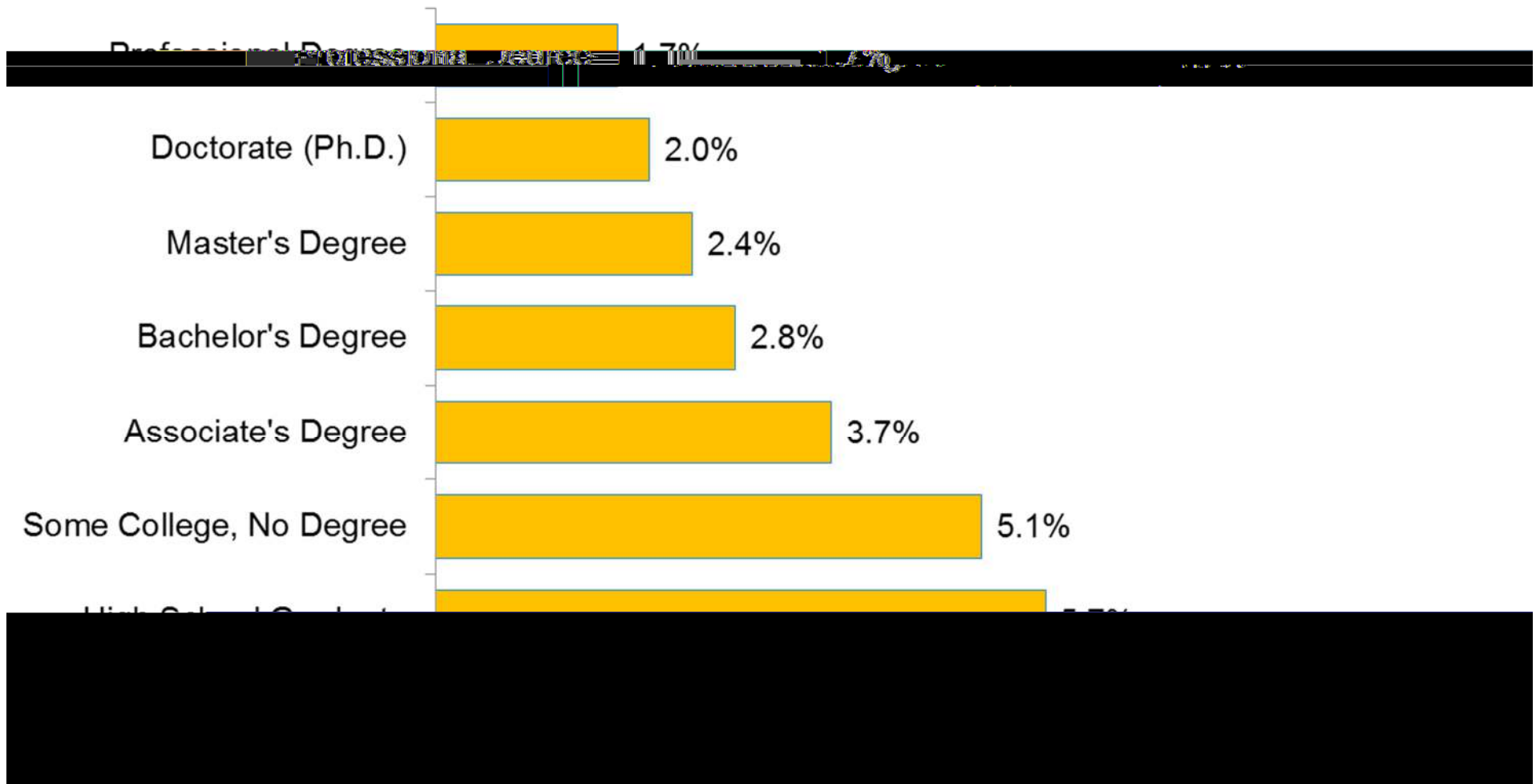


# College is Required for a Better Job

- All of the highest paying jobs require a college degree.
- Jobs for college graduates include better benefits, such as health insurance and retirement plans.
- College graduates have half the unemployment rates of high school graduates and better job security.
- There are many more jobs available for college graduates than high school graduates.

# College = Lower Unemployment Rate

### Unemployment Rates





# College Helps You Help Your Family

- You will be able to support your family with a larger salary.
- You will pave the way for your brothers and sisters and other relatives to go to college.
- You will be able to help your children with their homework and give them a better life. As a result, they will be more likely to attend college.

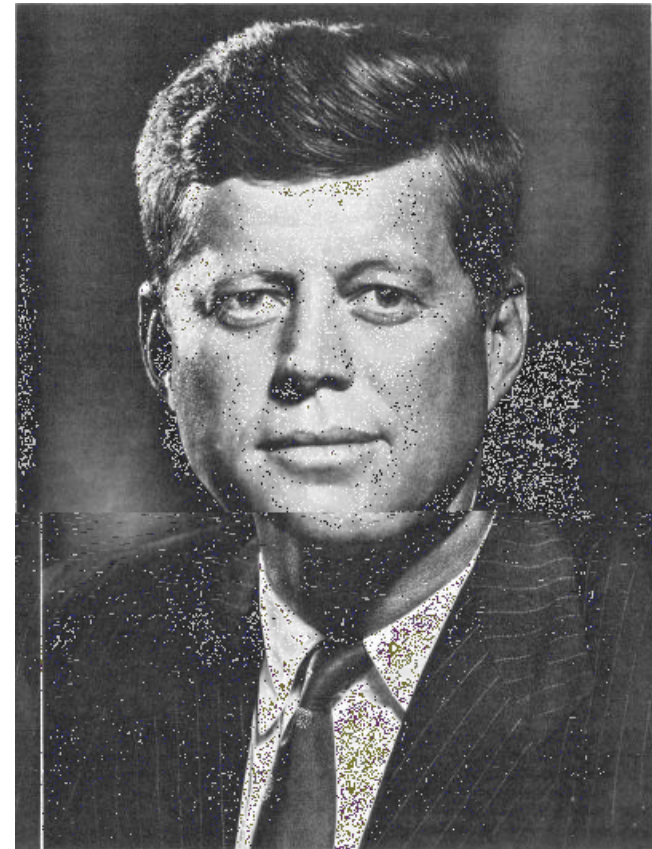
# College is a Lot of Fun!

- You get to do amazing things and to train for a job you will enjoy. There are many activities on college campuses.
- You will meet smart and interesting people and make lifelong friends.
- At college, it is cool to be smart. You will learn how to think and express yourself more clearly and solve important problems. You will become more confident

# Equal Opportunity

*In our democracy every young person should have an equal opportunity to obtain a higher education, regardless of his station in life or financial means.*

– President John F. Kennedy



# Famous College Graduates

- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar – UCLA
- Bill Clinton – Georgetown
- Hillary Clinton – Wellesley
- Bill Cosby – Temple University
- Gloria Estefan – Univ. of Miami
- Jodie Foster – Yale
- Louis Gossett, Jr. – NYU
- Hugh Hefner – Univ. of Illinois
- Magic Johnson – Michigan St.
- Tommy Lee Jones – Harvard
- John F. Kennedy – Harvard
- Martin Luther King Jr. – BU
- Spike Lee – Morehouse, NYU
- Jay Leno – Emerson College
- David Letterman – Ball State
- Bill Nye – Bridgewater State
- Shaquille O'Neal – LSU
- Barack Obama – Occidental
- Natalie Portman – Harvard
- Colin Powell – CUNY, GWU
- Ronald Reagan – Eureka
- J. K. Rowling – Univ. of Exeter
- Sonia Sotomayor – Princeton
- Julia Stiles – Columbia
- Sigourney Weaver – Stanford
- Oprah Winfrey – Tenn. State

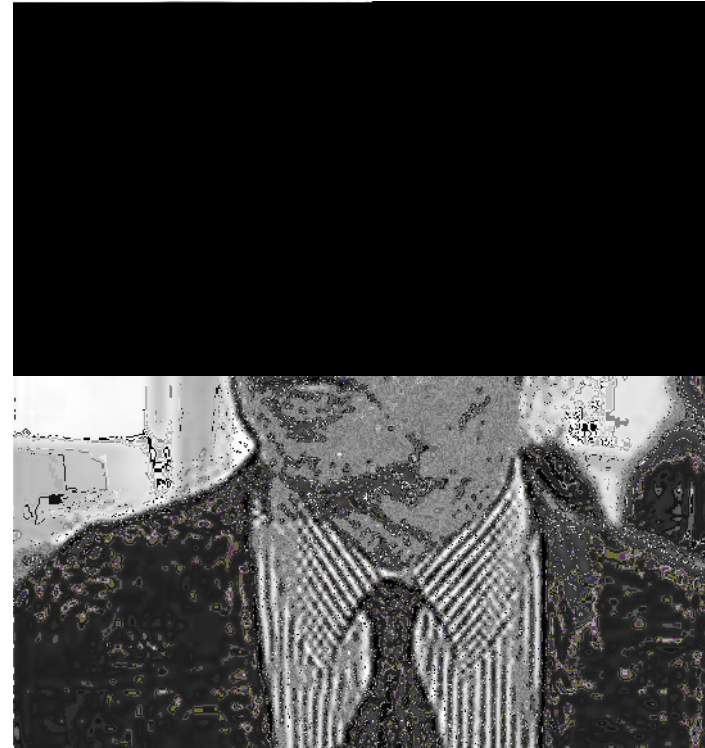
# How Do You Pay for College?

- Student financial aid helps you pay the college bills
- Five types of student financial aid
- Scholarships are about more than just money
- How do you find scholarships?
- How do you apply for scholarships?
- How do you apply for need-based aid?
- Pitfalls: Beware of scholarship scams!

# Covering College Costs

*Education costs money, but  
then so does ignorance.*

– Sir Claus Moser



# Student Financial Aid Pays the Bills

- College isn't as expensive as you might think.
- There's a lot of money available to help you pay for college.
- Student financial aid will help you bridge the gap between college costs and what you and your family can afford to pay.
- Student aid includes money from the federal and state government, from colleges themselves, and scholarships from foundations, private organizations and companies.

# Five Types of Student Financial Aid

- Gift aid, such as grants and scholarships, which is free money that does not need to be repaid.
- Student employment, such as part-time work-study jobs, which lets you earn as you learn.
- Student loans, which is money that is repaid over several years, usually with interest.
- Education tax benefits, such as the Hope Scholarship tax credit, which is money you get by filing a federal income tax return, even if you don't owe any taxes.
- Military student aid, such as ROTC and the GI Bill, where you earn money for your education in exchange for service in the United States Armed Forces.



# The Best Type of Student Aid

- Grants and scholarships are better than student loans because you don't have to pay them back!
  - Some funds are awarded based on financial need (the difference between the costs and ability to pay)
  - Some funds are based on academic, artistic or athletic merit or other skills and activities
  - Some funds are based on unusual criteria
    - Creating a prom costume out of duct tape
    - A scholarship for left-handed students
    - A scholarship for students with a last name of Zolp

# College is a Passport to the Future

*Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.*

– Malcolm X



# More Than Just Money

- The organizations that award scholarships are focused on more than just giving away money.
- They want to eliminate barriers to college success.
- Many try to build a community of their scholarship recipients.
  - You will meet people just like yourself and make lifelong friends.
  - You get someone to talk to, someone you can trust.

# How Do You Find Scholarships?



- Use a *free* online scholarship match service like [www.Fastweb.com](http://www.Fastweb.com).
  - Fastweb matches your profiles personal characteristics against a very large database of scholarships, so you will see only those scholarships for which you are qualified.
  - The Fastweb database is updated daily, with automatic email notification of new awards that match your profile.
  - Fastweb also provides college resources such as information on financial aid, college admissions, internships and more.

# More Ways to Find Scholarships

- Your guidance counselor might post information about scholarships outside his/her office or on the school web site.
- Some guidance counselors publicize scholarships in the school bulletin or distribute scholarship booklets.
- You can also find scholarships in books in your local public library or bookstore.

# Start Searching for Scholarships Now



- Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible.
- There are scholarships with deadlines throughout the year, so the sooner you start searching, the more scholarships you will find.
- There are even scholarships for children in the grades K-8 in addition to scholarships for high school students in grades 9-12.
- Continue searching for scholarships after you are enrolled in college.

# How Do You Apply for Scholarships?

- After you locate the scholarships, you will need to submit an application to each scholarship.
  - Many scholarships require short essays, letters of recommendation and high school transcripts.
  - If you become a finalist, some scholarships will conduct an in-person or telephone interview.
- If you win the scholarship, the sponsor will hold the money until you have enrolled in college. They will then send a check to you and/or to the college to help you with your college costs.

# Don't Lose Your Scholarship

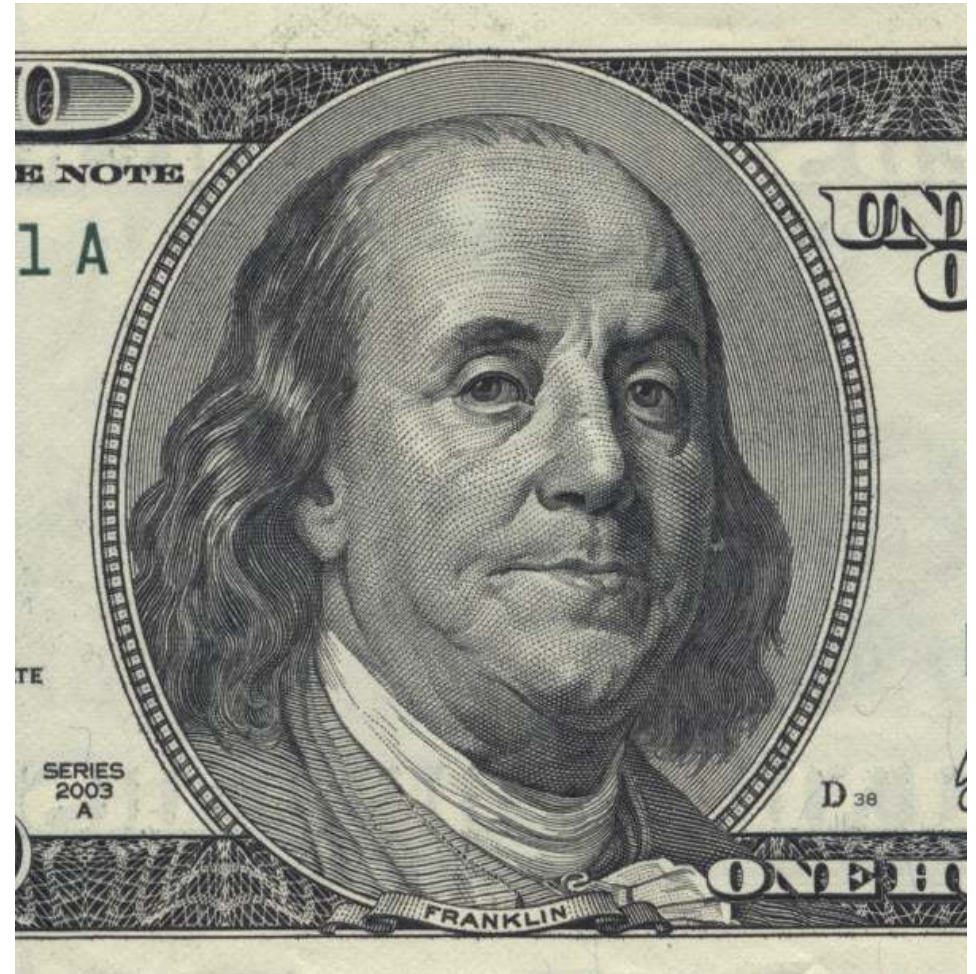
- Some scholarships are renewable, which means you get money every year you are in college.
- Often, you will need to get good grades to keep the scholarship and send a short progress report to the sponsor once a year.
- You might also need to get involved in community service or other activities.



# Knowledge is an Investment

*If a man empties his purse into his head, no one can take it from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the highest return.*

– Benjamin Franklin



# How do you Apply for Need Based Aid?

- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> to apply for need-based grants, loans and work-study.
- The FAFSA is used to calculate your “expected family contribution” or EFC, a measure of your family’s annual ability to pay for college.
  - A lower EFC makes you eligible to receive more need-based financial aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant.
  - Financial Need = Cost of Attendance – EFC
  - Students with a lower EFC qualify for more financial aid.
  - Students with a zero EFC (mostly students with family income less than \$30,000) have full financial need and qualify for even more financial aid to help pay for school.

# Beware of Scholarship Scams

- Beware of scholarships that charge any kind of an application fee, even if it is just a few dollars.
  - Don't invest more than a postage stamp for information about scholarships or to apply for scholarships.
  - If you have to pay money to get money it's probably a scam.
  - Don't give out your Social Security number, bank account number, credit card number or debit card number to any scholarship providers.
- Nobody can guarantee that you will win a scholarship.

# The Function of The University

*The function of the university is not simply to teach bread-winning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools or to be a centre of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.*

– W.E.B. DuBois  
The Souls of Black Folk



**Thank you!**