FRESHMAN YEAR EXPERIENCE
Born and bred on the South Side of Chicago, Derrius marched through 13 years of foster care after losing his father to violence and being separated from his mother to become a first-generation cum laude graduate of Morehouse College, securing over $1 Million in scholarships before leaving high school.

His first book, Million Dollar Scholar: Winning The Scholarship Race has assisted thousands of students across the globe increase their knowledge of how to make higher education more affordable through scholarships and grants and his business ventures have collectively impacted the lives of over 15,000 marginalized youth in America.
Discussion Questions:

1. What colleges are you interested?
2. How much does it cost to attend that institution?
3. How will you pay for it?
4. Have you had a conversation with your parents regarding their role in paying for your college?
What is financial aid?

- Money to pay for college or career school
  - Grants
  - Work-study
  - Loans
  - Scholarships
Types of financial aid

- Loans
- Grants
- Work-Study
- Scholarships
Who can get federal student aid?

• U.S. citizen or permanent resident
• High school graduate/GED holder
• Eligible degree/certificate program
• Valid Social Security number
• Males registered for Selective Service
• Satisfactory academic progress in college/career school
How much federal student aid can I get?

In general, depends on your financial need.

- Financial need determined by Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and cost of attendance (COA)
- EFC comes from what you report on FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- COA is tuition, fees, room and board, transportation, etc.

\[ \text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{financial need} \]
How much federal student aid can I get?

Maximum amounts for the major programs for a dependent freshman in 2017-18:

• Federal Pell Grant: $5,920
• Federal Work-Study: depends on funds available at school
• Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans: $5,500 total
• Direct PLUS Loan (for parents): COA minus other aid received

Funds from other programs are available; see StudentAid.gov/glance for details.
The majority of students use loans to help finance their college education. Don’t borrow any more than you absolutely need.
NET PRICE

NET PRICE is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year AFTER subtracting scholarships and grants the student receives.

Focus on the NET PRICE.
Not the STICKER Price.
# How Much Will it Cost?

**BILLABLE COSTS**
- Tuition and Fees
- On-Campus Room and Board

These costs will show up on the college bill.

**INDIRECT COSTS**
- Books and Supplies
- Off-Campus Room & Board
- Personal Expenses
- Travel Costs

These costs do not show up on the college bill.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Components</th>
<th>Commuter</th>
<th>On-Campus</th>
<th>Off-Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Mandatory Fees*</td>
<td>$6,632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books and Supplies</td>
<td>$1,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
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<td>$13,356</td>
<td>$14,502</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous/Personal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>$1,453</td>
<td>$1,524</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,842</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,839</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,056</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>UC Tuition and Cost of Attendance</td>
<td>Living on campus</td>
<td>Living off campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees*</td>
<td>$13,900</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Books and supplies</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health insurance allowance/fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room and board</td>
<td>$15,400</td>
<td>$11,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal/transportation</td>
<td>$1,900</td>
<td>$2,400</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$34,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,600</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- Athletic, Academic, Leadership, Theatre, Music
- Usually Competitive
- Institutional
- National
- State, Local, or Civic
Be Smart About Scholarships

Thousands of scholarships exist. Some colleges automatically consider all applicants for scholarships. Other scholarships from colleges, universities, and private sources require special applications and additional work and motivation to make it happen.

Never pay money to apply to an outside scholarship.
Other types of scholarship opportunities

• Scholarships by grade level
• Scholarships by State
• Scholarships by Type
Scholarships by State

- Some of the most common and easy to find scholarships are state scholarships
- State scholarships are need-based & merit-based
- State scholarships pay particular attention to applicants pursuing certain high need fields
Scholarships by Type

• Different types include scholarships based on:
  • Ethnic background
  • Medical disabilities (Cancer, Epilepsy, etc.)
  • Community service
  • Religious convictions
  • Artistic abilities (art, film, dance, music)
  • Environmental causes
Apply where you'd be at the top.

Apply to at least a few colleges you'd like to attend where your grades put you in the top 25 percent of the student body. Many college admissions and aid officers "look at the strength of their applicant pool. If you are in the top quartile, there is a very good chance they will try to lure you with merit aid," says Peter Van Buskirk, author of *The Admission Game* and the former head of admissions at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. Most colleges list their student profiles on their websites. The information is also available via *U.S. News's* Best Colleges *Premium Online Edition*, or at the Department of Education's *Navigator* website.
• Where to find scholarships
  • Check the **Financial Aid Office** of the school the student plans on attending
  • Check with **local organizations and community foundations**
  • Scholarship search engines:
Best Sites to Look for Scholarships

1. Zinch.com
Zinch is a college students one-stop-shop for scholarships that are creative, easy and fun to apply for and win. To apply for scholarships via Zinch, you’ll have to create a username and profile that will help the site find scholarships that are specifically relevant to you! One of Zinch’s most popular awards is the Weekly Three Sentence Essay Scholarship, where applicants must generate a 280-character essay (that’s only two tweets!) while vying for $1,000 of cold, hard cash.

2. Fastweb.com
Fastweb is another terrific, free resource where you’ll find thousands of scholarships at your fingertips. Not only does Fastweb offer a massive database of monetary awards, but it also features helpful career planning services and learning tools for its registered users! One of Fastweb’s most recently featured scholarships is the “Natural Disaster” PSA Video Contest, a $3,000 scholarship offered to creative undergrads with an eye for cinematography and knowledge of the consequences of natural disasters.
3. ScholarshipPoints.com
You know how you always seem to receive a new, complimentary gift after so many purchases at that favorite beauty counter of yours? ScholarshipPoints works the same way! Well, kind of. The site’s users rack up points through a rewards system, making them eligible for different scholarships according to how many points they have earned. Members can earn points through fun, day-to-day activities like reading blogs, taking quizzes and playing online games. ScholarshipPoints offers a rolling, monthly $1,000 for its members and a quarterly $10,000 scholarship. Join today and start earning your points!

4. Cappex.com
You may remember being advised by your high school guidance counselor to make a Cappex account to help narrow down your college search, but don’t delete that online profile just yet! The site is still helpful during our undergrad years, offering ample scholarship opportunities and financial advice. Once we’re undergrads, Cappex graciously bumps us up to “College Pro” status, where we’ll be eligible to apply for a $2,500 College Pro exclusive scholarship! Don’t wait, and check out all of the fine print of the Cappex College Pro scholarship today.
5. Scholarships.com
A no-brainer of a URL, are we right? Scholarships.com is a wonderful resource for college students who aspire to kill two birds with one stone—the site finds both scholarships and colleges that are perfect for you! If you’re looking to transfer to a school that is dying to recruit you and offer you scholarships, this is the site to visit. The site allows you to pinpoint specific scholarships by your major, year in school and location, increasing your chances for receiving awards and saving you tons of time. For meticulous proofreaders and aspiring editors, you may want to check out the Proof-Reading.com Scholarship Program featured on Scholarships.com! Although an essay is required, the $1,500 you could earn is definitely worth the time spent behind the keyboard.

6. College Board's Scholarship Search
Offering 2,300 sources of financial aid and over $3 billion in scholarship awards, the College Board's scholarship search resource could put you on the right track to financing your education—and fast! To start your search, be sure to fill out the detailed questionnaire on the site to narrow down specific awards that satisfy your financial needs. While you're browsing the College Board's scholarship selection, see if you're eligible to apply for the Coca-Cola Community Colleges Academic Scholarship!
7. **NextStudent.com**  
Formerly known as Scholarships101.com, NextStudent is an online leader in helping undergrads pay for college tuition, books and more. Like most of the aforementioned sites, NextStudent requires its students to set up a user account complete with details like school year, location and major to pinpoint scholarships for you! One of the scholarship matches that NextStudent found for me? **The Stephen J. Brady STOP Hunger Scholarship**, a $5,000 award available to any undergrad who has performed community service in the last 12 months, namely in the areas of food service.

8. **StudentScholarships.org**  
StudentScholarships.org is much like NextStudent.com, serving as a powerful search engine for finding relevant scholarships for undergrads. This site is also helpful because it features career profiles for many fields of study, giving its users a good idea of expected salary and job opportunities after graduation. Check out the **Dr. Aura-Lee A. and James Hobbs Pittenger American History Scholarship**, a $8,000 scholarship (with $2,000 paid annually through a four year college career) if you're a collegiate™ interested in American History and Government!
9. ScholarshipExperts.com
This site boasts that it is "fast, easy and free" which is certainly true! ScholarshipExperts.com is yet another great resource for scouring the Internet for great monetary awards during your undergrad years. Check out the "Courage To Grow" scholarship on the site, which awards eligible undergrads one $500 scholarship every month.

10. SuperCollege.com
Last, but not least, we have SuperCollege.com! This site is an online database of scholarships, grants and fun contests for undergrads to enter and (hopefully) win. On top of offering great scholarships, SuperCollege also offers no-nonsense guides for collegiettes™ like "How to Write a Winning Scholarship Essay" and "More Easy Ways to Save Money in College." For creative collegiates™ who are savvy with videography and have a way with flashcards, be sure to check out SuperCollege's Flashcard Scholarship worth $500!
When to apply for scholarships?

- Large majority of scholarship deadlines are within the months of **February-April**
Christopher Gray earned $1.3 million in scholarships – and he’s dedicating his life to helping other students do the same.

Born to a single teenage mother in Birmingham, Alabama, Gray knew that financial aid and scholarships would be his only means of paying for college. “For me, it was either I apply for financial aid or I don’t go. Scholarships were my only way out,” he told CNNMoney.

The teen logged countless hours at his local library scouring the Internet for scholarships. “I didn’t have a computer at home, so I had to go to the library,” he explained in an interview with Drexel University. “There was a 30-minute or hour limit because the computers were in such demand. So, I’d take 30 minutes to an hour. And then I’d have to get off, go back in line and wait again until I could get back on the computer to look up scholarships.”
By graduation, Gray had won 35 scholarships and enough money to pay for his education through his PhD. He enrolled at Drexel University and while there, he put his scholarship expertise to good use helping other students find scholarships.

“I was helping people with different demographics, with different races, different economic backgrounds. And it became hard to find scholarships for all of these different sorts of people,” he told the newspaper.

This gave him an idea – what if he could use his experience to help individual students find the right scholarships for them on a greater scale? He enlisted the help of two computer science majors to fulfill his vision of creating an app that matches students with thousands of scholarships they qualified for based on their demographics and interests. Their creation, Scholly, has helped students around the country earn around $15 million in scholarships this year alone, Gray told the Associated Press.

Gray has since won a $40,000 investment from two investors on the TV show Shark Tank and the app been ranked a top seller on the iTunes app store, the Daily Newsreports.

Now a college graduate, he’s focused on improving Scholly and expanding its reach to help more students.

“Scholly isn’t just a business to me,” he told Drexel. “I have a lot of moral conviction about what I’m doing. Scholly has become a personal crusade for me to help students. It’s extremely personal.”
How to navigate the process

1. Get organized
   • Pull together the information that may be needed for all scholarship applications
     • Academic Information (GPA, SAT/ACT scores)
     • Recommendation letters
     • College choices
     • Personal essay
     • Community/volunteer work

2. Create a list of eligible scholarships

3. Sort the scholarship list by deadline

4. Start applying
   • Be sure to read the directions, qualifications, and fine print carefully
   • Watch out for scholarship scams