

**HIFE CPP REQUIREMENTS:**

- ◆ Must have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- ◆ Must seek to attend an accredited institution
- ◆ Must be willing to complete the assigned homework provided by the HIFE Coach

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## Finding Federal Grants

Your most valuable resource for financial aid information is your HIFE CPP Coach. Our HIFE CPP Coach can direct you to the proper database to find the financial aid you need for a specific college or university based on your choice of degree.

You must first complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is a standardized application that helps determine your need for financial assistance. Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated based on the information you provide for your income, parent's income and assets as well as the size of your family. The EFC

provides the amount you and your family can afford to pay for college each year. Your EFC is used to generate the individual Student Aid Report (SAR) for the financial aid needs for the college you have selected.

You may file as a "dependent student" which will require for you to include your parent's financial profile on the FAFSA form. But if you file as an "independent student," your parent's financial information will not be factored in the application process. As an independent student, you will have a greater chance to show your need for financial assistance. However, this is all contingent on whether your

parents claim you as a dependent on their income tax return.

Your Student Aid Report is sent directly to your selected colleges which in turn will assist the financial aid officer in determining whether you qualify for any scholarships, grants and student loans.

By completing your FAFSA, you will be considered for the Pell Grant & Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG). Pell Grants are designed for need-based undergraduates and the qualification is based on the following criteria:

*(continued on p. 3)*

## Message From The Dean - Bob Fulcomer

This is a critical time for parents of high school seniors. With the holidays fast approaching, many parents fail to realize they will need to file their FAFSA forms as soon after Jan 1, 2015 as possible. It's not the filing of the FAFSA that is the most important to do now, but the allocation of funds and making sure you have done everything possible to lower your EFC (expected family contribution) is very

critical. If there are any includable assets that can be realigned to have them not be included when filing the FAFSA, it has to be done before the end of the year.

Although it doesn't affect everyone, for many parents, it can mean the difference between receiving "needs based" money or not receiving their fair share. Many parents assume that having funds in

their children's name will help, which is the opposite of what it really does. Students assets are weighed much heavier than the assets of their parents. Now is the time to do an analysis of income and assets and seek the advice of a professional that understands what includable assets are and how to be positioned best to receive the most financial aid possible.

## What Is Early Decision?



Students who are accepted into college early have the advantage of peace of mind during their senior year of high school. Applying early decision is a smart move for the confident applicant to stand out from the pack. But applying early is not for the faint of heart—those applicants who are accepted enter into a binding agreement to attend that college.

### Applying Early Decision

It is critical for a student to be absolutely certain in the choice of early-decision college before applying. Prospective students can apply for regular admission to other schools, but cannot apply to any other college by early decision. If the student is accepted, any other applications must be withdrawn.

A common misconception lies in the “binding” agreement of early decision. Applicants accepted under this program have agreed to attend only that college in the fall. It does not mean legal action can be taken against a student if he or she decides not to attend. However, since the applicant is bound under the terms of early decision to attend that college, she still cannot attend another school in the same academic year she was accepted for. If there is a change of heart, applicants may want to consider taking a gap year and reapplying to other colleges for the subsequent academic year.

Other schools will not allow a student to attend if he or she has rejected an early decision acceptance at another college.

Students typically apply for early decision without knowing what kind of financial aid they will be awarded. Some schools may consider financial aid a valid reason to break the binding attendance agreement. If a financial aid award may sway a student’s decision to attend a particular school, it’s best to find out if that college will break the agreement for this reason before applying early decision.

### Applying Early Action

The biggest difference between early decision and early action programs is the attendance agreement. Students who are accepted through early action programs can reject the offer and attend a different school without repercussions.

The nonbinding nature of the program also allows students to apply to several schools through early action. This is helpful for students in need of financial aid who can compare award offers from several schools. However, some schools, such as Harvard, Princeton and Yale, only offer single-choice early action programs, in which students can commit to just one early action college.

### Application Deadlines

Early decision and early action

applications are typically due by Nov. 1, but this deadline might be earlier or later depending on the college. Students will typically hear back by mid-December, prior to most colleges’ regular admission deadlines in January. If a student is deferred, he or she will enter the pool for regular admission and will likely not hear back until mid-March or mid-April.

### Why Apply Early?

Applying early can be beneficial to both students and colleges, says Chris Hooker-Haring, dean of admission and financial aid at Pennsylvania’s Muhlenberg College. Schools with early decision programs tend to have higher acceptance rates for those applicants than for the overall applicant pool.

“Nothing else in the application process allows a student to express such clear first-choice interest in a particular college,” says Hooker-Haring. “Colleges value the enthusiasm and commitment that early decision students bring with them to campus, so an early decision applicant may get an extra look in the admissions process.”

Early decision is more valuable to colleges than early action because it helps them determine their yield of accepted applicants who actually enroll in college. Yield is important to schools because it influences rankings and desirability among prospective students.

## Benefits Of Different Types Of Aid:

### College Grants

- Free money opportunities that don't have to be paid back
- Federal Pell Grants have helped low and middle-income students receive an average of \$2,445 per year.
- The Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) offers a range of \$100 to \$4,000 to students to cover their college education.
- The Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) offers you from \$750 for your first year to \$1,300 for your second year.
- The National SMART (Science And Mathematics Access to Retain Talent) Grant awards student up to \$4,000.
- Colleges offer institutional grants specifically to their students to help them with their tuition.

### Work-Study

- In the 2004-05 school year, the Federal Work-Study program awarded \$1.2

billion dollars to college students.

- You can earn money while you pay for your education.
- You are guaranteed a job at your college if you qualify for work-study.
- It does not affect your future financial aid status if you need to apply for more aid.
- You will gain valuable experience working in college and become better prepared for your future career.
- Your communication and time management skills will increase.

### Student Loans

- The government pays the interest for loans such as the Federal Perkins Loan and the Subsidized Stafford Loan as long as you are enrolled in school.
- Student loans help low-income and middle-class students build up their credit.
- Students that cosign with their parents or someone

with good credit will

- automatically receive that person's good credit rating.
- If you have a Perkins Loan and become a teacher, it can be cancelled if you decide to work in a low-income area.
- More than 4,000 private lenders and other agencies participate in the FFEL (Federal Family Education Loan), offering you many student loan options.
- Graduate students can borrow up to \$18,500 per year.

These are just a few of the reasons why federal student aid is a great way to pay for college. With the wide range of benefits you can receive with federal student financial aid, every eligible student should be able to attend the school of his or her choice.

Source:

-[Studentfinancedomain.com](http://Studentfinancedomain.com)



## Finding Federal Grants (cont.)

1. COA - Cost Of Attendance
2. Financial Need
3. Status As Full-Time Or Part-Time Student
4. Plans To Attend A College For A Full Academic Year Or Less

The maximum you can receive for a Pell Grant is \$5,500 per year.

The FSEOG are primarily for applicants with the highest financial need. Therefore if your EFC is determined to be \$0, you will be first considered for the FSEOG. It is vital that you submit your FAFSA as close to January 1<sup>st</sup> as possible in order to have a better chance in receiving the FSEOG, since the funds in the FSEOG is dispersed based on

prioritize progression until the money runs out.

In addition, there are other Federal Grant available for students based on their background or goals. A list of these grants are available through the Department of Education (DOE).



# HIFE



## COLLEGE PLANNING PROGRAM



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### What Is Early Decision? (cont.)

Stephanie Klein Wassink, founder of [AdmissionsCheckup.com](http://AdmissionsCheckup.com) and a former member of the admissions committee at Northwestern University, offers another argument for applying early. She suggests standing in the admissions officer's shoes: "When do you think it is easier to impress a college admissions officer—when you are application 31 or application 1,031?" she says.

**What to consider**  
Students with strong junior-year grades and standardized test scores are better candidates for early applications. Those with applications that could benefit from boosted fall semester grades or who are taking fall ACT or SAT tests may want to wait for regular admission before applying.

Above all, if a student chooses

early decision, he or she needs to be sure of the decision before applying. For those ready to apply, but unsure of their choices, early action allows for more flexibility. Ultimately, receiving early admission could mean a less stressful senior year for savvy applicants.

*Source: Anna Helhoski, Applying To College*

### Consultant Statement - Jimmy Carter Office - Atlanta

I love the program and have a passion for doing CPP. CPP is a great program that is not only a big help for the students and parents but also a valuable tool for us to help more and more families.

Education is a key for success in America, but the education system nowadays is very complicated, confusing and expensive. How to find the right college, right major or

right career path to have a successful future is always a major challenge for not only students but also their parents. CPP is a solution to this challenge. CPP assesses the student's interests, helps them understand their career choices, education background, helps them understand the costs and funding options in building a budget, and how to

save for their children's education fund.

Last but not least, CPP is a program where students can learn how to build and work along with a plan to achieve their goals, which can help students establish a winning attitude and build the confidence at a young age to become a successful person in the future.

### Coach's Corner

**Question:** How many colleges should I apply to?

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. It all depends on the degree you are pursuing, the region where you want to attend,

the cost of attendance, your grades, demographics, acceptance rate, etc.

I would recommend starting with 15-20 to select from then narrowing down to 6 to 8. Just remember that the

college you apply to is one possible school that you would be happy to attend.

Make sure you ask your HIFE Coach for guidance in helping you select the right fit college for you.