

# 10 websites for finding college funds

Joan Westlake, for Mesa Community College 1:20 p.m. MST May 6, 2016

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(Photo: MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

“I don’t need money for college,” said pretty much no one, ever! But, if you know where to look, there is a wealth of scholarships, grants and other funding as close as your nearest computer. Yes, searching and filling out applications take time, however, it might pay off. Juan Carlos Sanchez, [financial aid](https://www.mesacc.edu/financial-aid) (<https://www.mesacc.edu/financial-aid>) outreach specialist at [Mesa Community College](https://www.mesacc.edu) (<https://www.mesacc.edu>), offers some tips. The first is to avoid sites that charge a fee, there are too many good ones that don’t. And, don’t give search sites personal information such as your social security number or credit card details. **He advises that for the best chance at getting your higher education funded, start six months to a year before you want to register for college.** From the very first application, keep track of all the scholarships for which you apply with the name of the scholarship, the website, the date you

applied and keep a copy of the application either digitally or print it out. Here are some of the best sites to find funding.

## 1. College of Your Choice

\* **Financial Aid Offices** - You’ll find lists of scholarships and other sources of money for college on the website of [Mesa Community College](https://www.mesacc.edu/) (<https://www.mesacc.edu/>) and most institutions of higher education. Call if you have questions and stopping by the [financial aid office](https://www.mesacc.edu/financial-aid) (<https://www.mesacc.edu/financial-aid>) is also a good option.

\* **Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation** (<http://mcccdf.org/>) - Colleges and universities often have affiliated foundations that manage scholarships established by alumni and other benefactors.

2. **AZ Community Foundation** (<http://www.azfoundation.org>) - Since the late 70s, this state organization has served as a philanthropic center for donors to support education, arts and culture, youth development, healthcare and social and civic needs.

## 3. United States Department of Education

(<file:///C:/Users/Joan/Google%20Drive/My%20Documents/AZ%20Republic%2016%5CMCC%5Cstudentaid.ed.gov>) - In addition to connecting with scholarship, grant and loan opportunities, this site offers basic education on preparing for college, what type of aid is available, how to qualify and how to manage funds you receive.

## 4. Sallie Mae College Funds

(<file:///C:/Users/Joan/Google%20Drive/My%20Documents/AZ%20Republic%2016%5CMCC%5Csalliemae.com%5Cplan-for-college%5College-planning-toolbox>) - This College Planning Toolbox has free tools, apps and calculators to help with your plans to save and pay for college as well as search for more than 5 million available scholarships. Plus, there is a monthly drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship for just [registering](https://www.salliemae.com/plan-for-college/registration/) (<https://www.salliemae.com/plan-for-college/registration/>).

5. **Fastweb** (<http://www.fastweb.com/>) - Always at the top of recommended sites for its user friendly interface, scholarships estimated to be worth around \$3.4 billion plus reminders and updates on new sources for you to consider.

6. **Niche** (<https://colleges.niche.com/scholarship/apply.aspx>) - While searching for funding on this site, you can register to win a \$2,000 scholarship.

7. **Cappex** (<https://www.cappex.com/page/account/quickApply.jsp?scholarshipID=gp&code=HO1117-5->) - Although this site requires filling out some extensive forms in order to find matches for scholarships, it consistently rates high among high school and undergraduate students. Also, a simple form puts you in the running for a [\\$1,000 scholarship](https://www.cappex.com/page/account/quickApply.jsp?scholarshipID=gp&code=HO1117-5-) (<https://www.cappex.com/page/account/quickApply.jsp?scholarshipID=gp&code=HO1117-5->).

8. **CollegeXpress** ([http://www.collegexpress.com/carnegie\\_scholarship/](http://www.collegexpress.com/carnegie_scholarship/)) - The incentive to sign up and search for funds on this site is the chance to win a \$10,000 scholarship.

9. **UNIGO** (<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>) - You can target funding possibilities such as athletic, specific schools, minorities and states. Plus there are scholarships you can win with brief essays such as the \$10,000 UNIGO or \$2,000 Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship.

10. **The College Board** (<https://www.collegeboard.org/>) - In addition to offering testing services, this nonprofit's [bigfuture](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college) (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college>) site offers guidance on [finding thousands of funding programs](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search) (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>) as well as [how to avoid scholarship scams](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/how-to-spot-scholarship-scams) (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/grants-and-scholarships/how-to-spot-scholarship-scams>).

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