

FINANCIAL AID... FACT OR FICTION?

Fact

- Compare colleges initially on factors other than cost – look at academic programs, student life, location. Select the best “fit” for you, then see if it is affordable.
- Financial aid is available from many sources – federal, state, institutional, and private programs.
- While good grades are important, many forms of financial aid are “need” based.
- Regardless of family income, students may use some form of educational loan to help with school expenses.
- The procedures for determining the eligibility for financial aid are reviewed annually. Do not automatically eliminate yourself from aid programs by not applying.
- Expensive colleges may offer more aid but your contribution may be significantly higher as well.

Fiction

- Costs are a good way to compare colleges.
- Financial aid is not available.
- Aid is only for the best students.
- Income is too high to qualify.
- Sibling/friend did or did not qualify.
- Attend college that offers the most aid.