



THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK OF A FINANCIAL AID OFFICER ALASKA

College Grants and Scholarships in Alaska



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When you add up the cost of tuition, books, room and board, and all the additional student fees, the price of post-secondary education in Alaska can seem overwhelming. It's easy to become discouraged and give up on your dreams of obtaining a degree. However, there are quite a few organizations that offer financial aid, in the form of grants and scholarships, to residents who cannot afford to pay for a two-year or four-year program or based on merit for outstanding students.

Scholarship and Grants Offered by the State of Alaska

- The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), which Alaska has been a member of for over fifty years, is a consortium that provides collective higher education to regional residents. This means drastically reduced tuition rates. If you are a resident of any of the fifteen WICHE states, you are eligible. To be considered for the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) rate you need to apply directly to the WUE Institution(s) of your choice. You can view the [participating institutions](#). Institutions often limit the number of new WUE awards each year, so try and apply as early as possible.
- Alaska Performance Scholarships (APS) is a merit-based program for high school Alaska High School students who are willing to put in the extra work and get the good grades. This relatively new state program is a fantastic launch pad for young students who want to excel at school. By taking on a more rigorous high school workload, getting good grades, and scoring well on your SATs, you can get awarded up to \$4,755 per year for your college education. Learn more or apply [here](#).
- The Alaska Advantage Education Grant is one of the most accessible to resident students. Award amounts are usually between \$500 and \$2000. In order to be eligible you must be an Alaska resident and be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at a state college or university. Your first step in applying is to fill out your [FAFSA](#).
- GEAR UP! Alaska is a unique program that starts when kids are in middle school and spans over six years. Participants receive college prep courses and are eligible for a government funded scholarship that does not need to be repaid. In order to receive the funds, the students need to be Alaska residents enrolled in a higher education program. The scholarship pays up to \$7000 and is renewable for four years. Additional info can be obtained [here](#).







