

Planning Ahead

A College Financial Resource Guide for 9th Grade Students

Tips and ideas to help you get a jumpstart on paying for college!

Get Involved

Students who are involved in extracurricular activities and who volunteer have more robust resumes and are therefore more competitive when it comes to scholarships. Many scholarships require extracurricular activities and leadership experience.

Get a Job

- Check the Jobs Board in the Career Center.
- [Create your resume](#) on Next Steps Idaho.
- Create an account on Indeed.com and upload your resume.
- Once you have a job, consider opening a savings account that has limited access. For example, ICCU has a Choice Savings account that only allows you to withdraw from it twice a year. Having limited access will help you save money for college!

Use a Scholarship Database

- A database can match you to national and local scholarships.
- Ask your parents for help when signing up. Your parents will know unique things such as military service, tribal affiliation, Rotary and Kiwanis membership, etc.
- Most databases offer the same service so consider using only one to start. You will likely receive multiple emails, including spam.
- Consider opening a second email for scholarships and invite your parents to look at the scholarships with you.

Take Advantage of Advanced Opportunities

- Take honors courses this year or next to prepare you for AP and/or concurrent credit courses.
- Explore the concurrent credit and AP options available at your school. Ask questions!
- Use your \$4,125 in Fast Forward funding to pay for AP exams and concurrent credit courses.

Additional Ideas

- Talk to your parents and grandparents about the Idaho 529 Plan (www.idsave.org).
- Consider an ROTC program in college. ROTC scholarships can be competitive so plan ahead and take rigorous classes.
 - Army ROTC at [Boise State University](#)
 - Army ROTC at [Lewis-Clark State College](#)
 - Army ROTC at [Idaho State University](#)
 - Air Force/Army/Navy ROTC at [University of Idaho](#)

Join a club freshman or sophomore year.

Apply for a leadership position within the club in your junior or senior year.

Join a sport.

school (i.e., tennis), club (i.e., bowling), or community (i.e., martial arts).

Volunteer!

American Red Cross, Zoo Boise, Meridian Food Pantry, St. Lukes, etc.

Scholarship Databases

Idaho Scholarship Listing:
<https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/scholarship-listing?&page=1>

Fast Web:
www.fastweb.com

Unigo:
www.unigo.com

College Board:
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

Cappex:
www.cappex.com

Chegg:
www.chegg.com