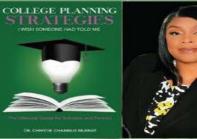
*CAP Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® College Planning and Funding Webinar Sunday, March 20, 2022 | 4:00 pm ET-5:30 pm ET

Guest Speaker



Dr. Christie Murray



Sponsoring Chapters

Psi Psi Omega | Alpha Phi Omega Gamma Delta Omega | Lambda Omega Omega Nu Rho Omega | Delta Omicron Omega Phi Nu Omega | Psi Theta Omega Nu Zeta Omega | Beta Nu Omega



Register Here:

Welcome

College Planning and Funding Webinar

- Thank you for joining us.
- This webinar will be recorded for future use.
- Photos may be taken for reporting purposes.
- ✤ All lines will be muted to minimize noise.
- ✤ Use the chat function to post comments or questions.



Webinar Objectives



The objectives of this webinar are to:

- Equip students with tools to navigate the college admissions and funding process with a plan.
- ✤ Share tips on researching and applying for scholarships.
- ✤ Share relevant COVID-19 impacts.

Interactive Discussion!



Hosting AKA Collaboration Chapters (11)



Lead by: Dr. Christie Murray (Psi Psi Omega Chapter)

- ✤ Alpha Phi Omega (Danville, VA)
- Beta Nu Omega (Montgomery, AL)
- Delta Omicron Omega (Orlando, FL)
- Gamma Delta Omega (Portsmouth, VA)
- Lambda Omega (Newport News, VA)
- Lambda Omega Omega (Monmouth & Ocean Counties, NJ)
- ✤ Nu Rho Omega (Hinesville, GA)
- ✤ Nu Zeta Omega (White Plains, MD)
- Phi Nu Omega (Alexandria, VA)
- Psi Psi Omega (Stafford and Fauquier Counties, VA)
- Psi Theta Omega (Orlando, FL)



- - AKA Overview
 - Speaker Introduction
 - Speaker Presentation
 - Closing Remarks/Wrap-up
 - ***** Survey
 - ✤ Give-a-ways

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®



- International Greek-letter non-profit service organization.
- ✤ Founded January 15, 1908 on the campus of Howard University (an HBCU).
- ✤ Over 300,000 members world-wide.
- Program theme: Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service.
- ✤ We address community needs through <u>five</u> target program initiatives:
 - **Target 1: HBCU 4 Life: A Call to Action and #CAP**
 - Target 2: Women's Healthcare and Wellness
 - Target 3: Building Economic Legacy
 - Target 4: The Arts!
 - Target 5: Global Impact

Target I Program Initiative





Promote HBCUs and share factual information

Assist high school juniors and seniors through the College Admissions Process (#CAPSM)

Upcoming Events To Register Visit:

https://www.investnothers.com/webinar-material

(April)	(May)
SAT Prep Strategies	ACT Prep Strategies
Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET) (For High School Students)	Sunday, May 22, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET) (For High School Students)
(June)	(July)
HBCU and PWI Colleges Official Panel Discussion	Essay Writing and Letters of <u>Recommendation</u>
Sunday, June 5, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)	Sunday, July 31, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)
(For High School Students & Parents)	(For High School Students & Parents)



Speaker Introduction Dr. Christie Murray National Speaker, Author, Entrepreneur



Psi Psi Omega Chapter Vice President Stafford and Fauquier Counties, VA



These College Strategies Work!!!

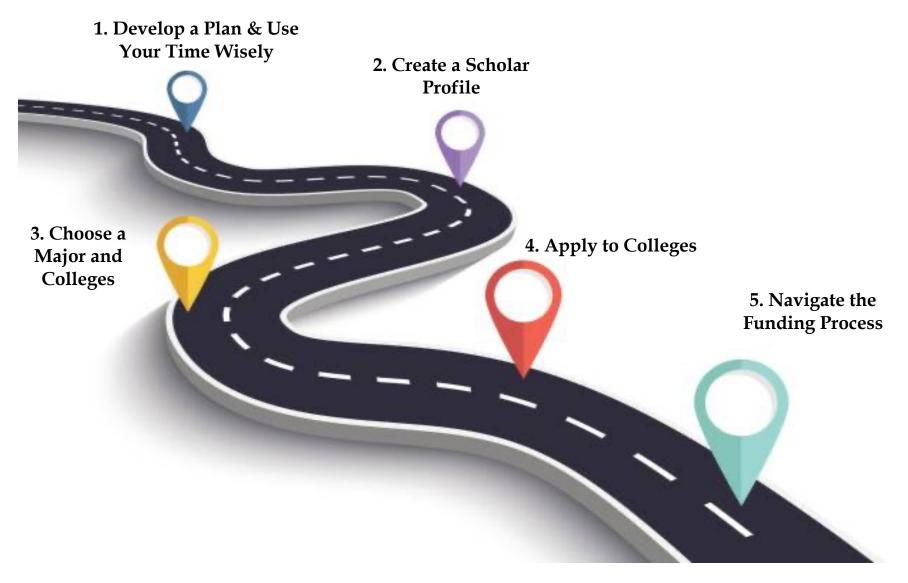


Junior Old Dominion University Mass Communications Entrepreneur, Prolific Streetwear



Freshman – Div 1 Football Player Norfolk State University Computer Science Entrepreneur, Vivid KameraShots

College Planning and Funding Roadmap



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Assess Your Current Situation



Exercise: Where Are You Now Assessment



- 1. What is your (child/student's) current cumulative grade point average (GPA)?
- 2. True or False. Only students with a high GPAs get scholarships?
- 3. What is your School Counselor's name?
- 4. What's the process for obtaining your transcripts at your high school?
- 5. True or False. The best time to apply for college is the Spring of your Senior Year.
- 6. What are your top *three* college/university choices?
- 7. What are your top *three* college majors choices?
- 8. True or False. Most colleges and universities prefer the SAT over the ACT.
- 9. True or False. Average grades in hard classes are better than A's in easy ones.
- 10. True or False. Social media accounts and your online reputation does not matter.

1. Develop and Plan & Use Your Time Wisely

1. Develop a Plan *C.L.E.A.R. and Effective*

	College Admissions and Funding Plan									
	Current Year in Sch	Gradua	ation Year:	Colleg	_ College Start Date:					
No.	Action	Туре	Cost	Start Date	Due Date	% Complete	Notes			
1			\$							
2			\$							
3			\$							
4			\$							
5			\$							
6			\$							
7			\$							
		Total Costs	\$							

Use Your Time Wisely Timeline (12th Grade)

- Choose a major
- List your colleges
- □ Visit schools
- □ Write college essays (if applicable)
- Request official transcripts
- Create/update your Scholar Profile
- Obtain letters of recommendation
- □ Apply to colleges and track results Fall
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online (send results to top 3-5 schools) Fall
- □ Search and apply for scholarships and track results
- □ Receive acceptance letters and financial aid awards
- Decide on a college, pay deposits and housing fees



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2. Create A Scholar Profile?

- One-page summary (tells your story)
 - Resume
 - Brag sheet
 - Self-assessment
- Tells Your story on paper!
- Highlight your:
 - Educational goals
 - Past experiences
 - Honors Accomplishments
 - ✤ Activities and leadership
 - Talents and interests



Used for...

- ✓ College applications
- ✓ Scholarship apps
- ✓ Letters of recommendations
- ✓ Essay writing

Downloadable Scholar Profile Template



John Doe 12345 College Bound Drive City, State Zip Code Home: (123) 456-789; Mobile: (123) 911-4111 Email: john.doe@yahoo.com

Objective: To attend XX university and obtain a degree in XX.

Education: High School: XX High School, City, State (Graduation: 06/13/20XX) Current GPA: 3.6; Rank: 29/283 ACT Scores: Composite: 24; English (24); Math (30); Reading (21); Science (20) College Plan: Hampton University (Accepted on 1/20/20XX) Enrollment Date: Fall 2018 Intended Degree/Major: Bachelor of XX in XX

Honors and Awards:

- Honor Roll, (20XX Present)
- National Honor Society Induction, 20XX
- Top Alternate Current/Direct Current Student, (20XX-20XX)

Employment Experience:

- Cashier, McDonalds, City, VA (20XX-20XX)
- Walmart Cashier, City, VA (20XX)

Student Organizations/Extracurricular Activities:

- Student Government Association Class Representative, (20XX-Present)
- National Honor Society, (20XX-Present)
- Future Business Leaders of America Member, (20XX-20XX)

Community Service Activities:

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Adopt a Highway Project, (20XX)
- Volunteered at Galleria Mall on Summer Family Nights, (20XX)
- Volunteered at the XX Community Center, (20XX)

Relevant Courses:

- Algebra II
- Graphics Design I
- Oceanography

Interests/Hobbies:

- Cooking
- Reading

Website: <u>https://www.educationalexcellenceinc.com/about-us-1</u>



College Planning - Page 46

Scholar Profile Strategies

- ✤ Assess your strengths and areas of improvement.
- ✤ Look for gaps in your scholar profile, then fill them.
- Update your scholar profile (frequently).
 - Summer break
 - Winter break
- Include the scholar profile with applications only if additional documents can be attached.

3. Choose a Major

- Narrow down and select a major before you start applying to colleges.
- Most colleges do not require students to declare a major until the end of the sophomore year.
- However, it is not recommended to wait until two years into college (sophomore year) to select a major!
- ✤ Identify your interests, values, passions, and abilities.
- ✤ Ask parents, counselors, and/or trusted advisors.
- Research careers and salaries for different majors.
- ✤ Make a list of potential majors (5 -10 colleges).



Types of Schools and Colleges

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- ✤ There's about 2,000 colleges in the U.S.
- Vocational/Trade schools:
 - ✤ Teaches a skill or trade for a specific job.
 - Electrician, Auto Mechanic, HVAC Technician, Plumber, Dental Hygienist, etc.
 - ✤ Most programs are about 2 years.
 - Obtain a license, certification or certificate.
- ✤ <u>Two-year college</u>:
 - Community or junior college.
 - Obtain an associate's degree.
- ✤ Four-year college:
 - Undergraduate coursework.
 - ✤ Obtain a bachelor's degree.





Public vs Private Colleges

- Public college:
 - Primarily funded by a state government.
 - ✤ Generally larger than private schools.
 - In-state students pay in-state tuition.
 - Out-of-state students living out of state <u>likely pay more</u> tuition.
- Private college:
 - Often operates as an educational, non-profit organization.
 - Does not receive primary funding from a state government.
 - ✤ One tuition rate (whether in-state or out-of-state).
 - ✤ Usually <u>more costly</u> than public schools.

3. Choose a College

- Use an online search tool to help you research colleges:
 - https://collegescorecard.ed.gov
 - www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
 - ✤ <u>www.commonapp.org</u>
- ✤ Take college tours (in-person and virtual tours).
- Key factors to consider with choosing a college:
 - □ Offers your chosen program or major
 - □ Cost of attendance (affordable)
 - □ Location (in state/out of state)
 - □ Public or private
 - □ College size (and class size)
 - □ A good fit for you
 - Graduation rate
 - □ Campus safety
 - □ Traditional, distance learning, or blended.

List Colleges and Requirements (Template)

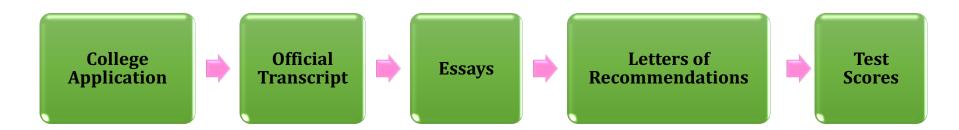
Recommend top 5-10 colleges

							CO	LLLOL N	TÃO	ILLIVI		KL.				
LLEGE NAME	E LOCATION		E YEARLY TUITION/ROOM & BOARD COST					DEADLINE TO APPLY		SAT SCORE	ACT SCORE	ES ()	LETTEI RECOMME N (Y	ENDATIO	DATE APPLICATION SUBMITTED	ACCEPTAN DECISIO
ole University	City, State	Yes	\$ 36,660	1	\$	35 10		3/1/20XX	3.3	1100	22	Y, 25 W		[11]		
APPLICATIO OM (ONLINE O	ON APPLICAT DR N FEE		ARLY DEADLI IISSION TO APP		SAT SCORE		PREADS essay (Y/N)		ERS OF IENDAT		WEBSITE		DATE APPLICATION	ACCEPTANCE DECISION	NOTES	
OST MAIL)			ATE				Y, 250-500 words	N (0 Y	(Y/N) (,1		vw.college.edu		SUBMITTED 10/15/20XX	Accepted	** SAT/ACT Scores only required if you have less than 30 credit hours ** 3.3 GPA or ranked in to 10% of class.	

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS SPRE

4. Apply to Colleges

4. Apply to College College Application Parts



- ✤ Each college has its own application process.
- Different ways to apply:
 - Electronically (create an account through a web portal)
 - ✤ By mail
- College application fee:
 - ✤ Varies for each college (\$35 \$100)
 - Some students can get fees waived.

When to Apply to Colleges

- ✤ Apply during the FALL of your senior year (Sept Dec).
- ✤ Early Decision (Deadline usually November 1 15th):
 - Can only apply to one school early decision.
 - Binding agreement you will enroll in that institution, if accepted.
 - Sends the strongest message that college is your top choice.
- ✤ Early Action (Deadline usually November 1 15th):
 - ✤ Apply early to as many schools as you want.
 - Does not require you to commit to the college.
 - Enables you to compare financial aid packages among several colleges and universities before accepting or declining the offer.
- ✤ Both ED and EA decisions generally made by mid December.
- ✤ National response deadline to enroll is usually May 1st.

College Planning (Strategy 8) - Page 77-85

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The Common Application (App) www.commonapp.org

- Students can submit one college applications to about 900 colleges.
- Create an account/profile and then search colleges.
- ✤ Research and <u>apply</u> to multiple colleges through one website portal.
- ✤ New application opens on August 1st of each year.
- Reused when applying for multiple colleges on the site.
- ✤ Applicants can use the Common App for free.
- ✤ Each college may have an application fee (varying amounts).
- ✤ Roughly 45% of participating schools do not charge an application fee.



The Common Black College Application (App) www.commonblackcollegeapp.com

- Students can submit one college applications to about 55 HBCUs.
- Create an account and apply to multiple colleges for about \$20.
- Select your top HBCUs to apply.
- Upload your test scores.
- Research and apply to multiple colleges through one website.
- Reused when applying for multiple colleges on the site.



Robert Mason, Founder

Official Transcripts

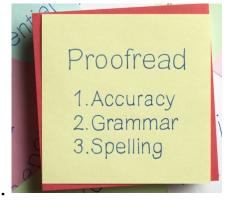
- Formal copies of a student's official high school academic grades have grades from freshman to junior year.
- ✤ Know the process to request transcripts and follow it precisely.
- Parental permission may be required at your high school prior to requesting transcripts.
- Request to have official high school transcripts for all of the colleges you applied to.
- * Most high schools will either mail or email your official transcripts to colleges.
- Double check with the colleges to verify receipt by the deadline, and followup with your high school.

Essays and Letters of Recommendations Two Ways



Essay Writing Guidance

- Draft essays early and prepare to revise multiple times.
- Save and re-use content for multiple applications.
- Find trusted individuals to proofread and critique your writing (i.e. teacher).
- ✤ Use free online proofreading resources (i.e. Grammarly).
- Follow directions (type, word count).
- ✤ Address the specific essay topic or question.
- ✤ Write on various topics and save them all.
- Demonstrate knowledge of college/entity (facts/statistics).
- Share how you will make a difference.



Letters of Recommendation

- Make a list of recommenders:
 - ✤ Teachers
 - School Counselors
 - Coaches
 - Community Leaders



- Provide a Scholar Profile with your recommendation request.
- ✤ Request multiple copies and ask for generic letters that can be reused.
- Provide recommenders with submission instructions.
- Set recommenders deadlines 1-2 weeks before your deadline.
- Follow-up to make sure letters are received by the deadline.
- Offer a pre-drafted letter of recommendation for them to tailor.

College Funding (Strategy 8) - Page 98-102

Sample Letter of Recommendation

_____ [Month Day, Year]

To ______ [Scholarship Entity Selection Committee]: I, ______ [First Name and Last Name], with ______ [Organization], I am writing this letter to express my support for ______ [Scholar First and Last Name] and _____ [his or her] application for the ______ [Name of Scholarship]. _____ [He or She] plans to attend ______ [College or University] to major in ______ [College major]. _____ [He or She] demonstrated exceptional ______ [academic achievement]. _____ [Scholar Name] currently has a ____ [grade point average] at ______ [XX High School]. _____ [He or she] pursues academic excellence and welcomes challenges. I have known _____ [Scholar First Name], for ___ [no. of years] (or since 20XX).

[Have known ______ [Scholar First Name], for ____ [ho. of years] (of since 2000). _____ [He or She] _____ [studied, worked or volunteered] with _____ [Organization Name] from _____ to ____ [Month 20XX to Month 20XX]. [Scholar First Name] is extremely hard working and displays sound judgement required for a leader. ____ [He or she] an individual who strong character and carries ____ [himself or herself] in a polite, respectable, and professional manner.

[He or she] impressed me with ___ [his or her] ability to ____, ___, and ____ [solve problems, communicate effectively, and think critically]. ____'s [Scholar First Name] creativity and innovative mindset exceeded my expectations. _____ [He or she] was extremely _____ [proactive], _____ [professional] and _____ [results-driven].

Without reservation, I strongly recommend _____ [Scholar First Name] as a candidate for your scholarship. Please afford ____ [him or her] the opportunity to continue to excel academically in college. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: _____ [Phone Number] or _____ [email address].

Best Regards,

[Your Signature} Name Title

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SAT/ACT Tests



- Take both tests (if, possible)
- Measures what students are learning in school and what they need to know to be successful in college.
- ✤ More colleges are making these test optional:
 - Essay, academics will be weighted heavier
 - May be needed for merit-based scholarships
- **ACT** has a Science Test, and one **SAT** Math Section no calculator.
- Send your SAT/ACT scores to the <u>colleges on your list</u>

Upcoming Test Dates

Registration dates and fees (may be waived)

SAT Test Dates	ACT Test Dates
 5/8/2022 6/5/2022 8/28/2022 	 4/2/2022 6/11/2022 7/16/2022

Register: <u>https://www.collegeboard.org/</u>

Register: <u>http://www.act.org/</u>

Take Both Tests...Early SAT/ACT Prep

- Plan to take the tests more than once
- Complete a SAT/ACT Prep-course (recommended)
- Re-take the SAT/ACT (immediately after prep-course)
- Download mobile apps...and practice
- ✤ Retake the test (67% improve their scores)

Prep Resource	Туре	Benefit	Cost
Kaplan	SAT/ACT	Most practice tests	\$299 and up
The Princeton	SAT/ACT	Best one-on-one	\$299 and up
Review		interaction	_
Khan Academy	SAT (only)	Best <i>free</i> SAT prep	Free
ACT Prep Online	ACT	Most engaging ACT	\$40 and up
	(only)	prep (fun)	

Reviews.com: <u>http://www.reviews.com/act-sat-test-prep-courses/</u>

Application Package Checklist Follow instructions...adhere to deadlines

□ Application

- □ Transcript (official or unofficial)
- □ Essay(s) or personal statement(s)
- □ Letter(s) of recommendation
- □ SAT/ACT test scores
- □ Financial need documents (*if applicable*)
- □ Scholar Profile (optional)

5. Navigate the Funding Process

The Cost of Attendance (COA)

- ✤ Cost of attendance is how much college will cost.
- Direct costs (paid to college):
 - Tuition and fees (price colleges charge for tuition instruction)
 - Room and board (campus housing and food)
- Indirect costs (your expenses):
 - Books, course materials, supplies
 - Personal expenses (laundry, clothes, cell phone, medical, etc.)
 - Transportation (commute, travel, etc.)
 - ✤ Go where you can afford!!



Cost of Public/Private Colleges

Average Tuition & Fees

2019-2020



USNews

WWW.USNEWS.COM/PAYINGFORCOLLEGE

Ways to Pay for College Financial Aid

- Financial aid = Money to help pay for college
- Federal government awards over \$120 billion to 13 million students annually
- ✤ Types of financial aid:
 - ✤ Work study
 - Grants
 - Scholarships
 - Student Loans



Student Loans

According to the U.S. Department of Education:

- ✤ \$1.6 trillion in U.S Student Loan Debt
- ✤ 45 million borrowers
- ✤ Average student loan debt \$32,731 (in 2020)
- Avoid or minimize student loans, if possible!



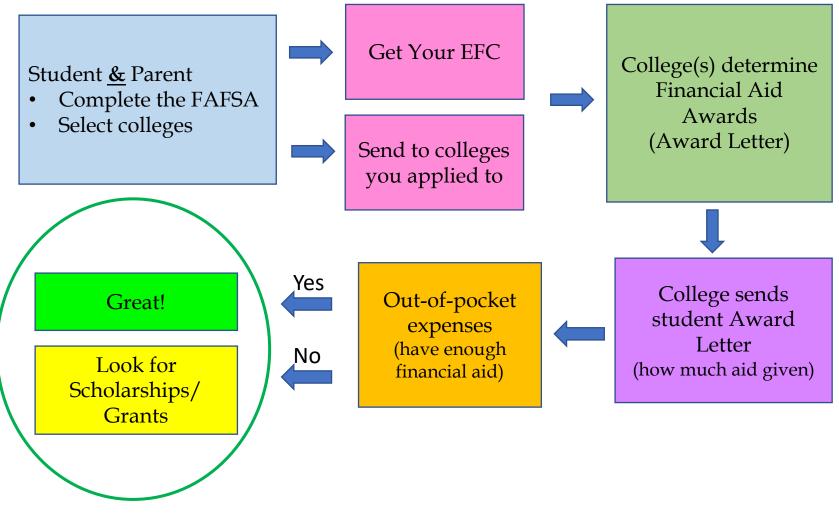
Avoid or minimize student loans, if possible!

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Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Apply online - <u>https://fafsa.ed.gov</u>

- ✤ FAFSA is required to receive federal financial aid.
- ✤ Used by colleges to determine student financial aid eligibility.
- ✤ Released on October 1st each academic year.
- **FREE** no cost to apply.
- Seniors Apply as soon as possible before the college's deadline.
- College students Apply <u>every year</u> you will return to college the following academic year. (Even if you have scholarships!)

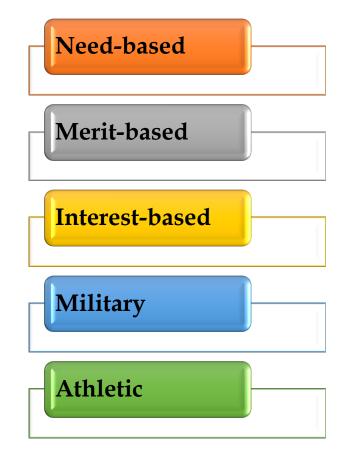
Apply for Financial Aid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



College Funding (Strategy 6) - Page 64-78

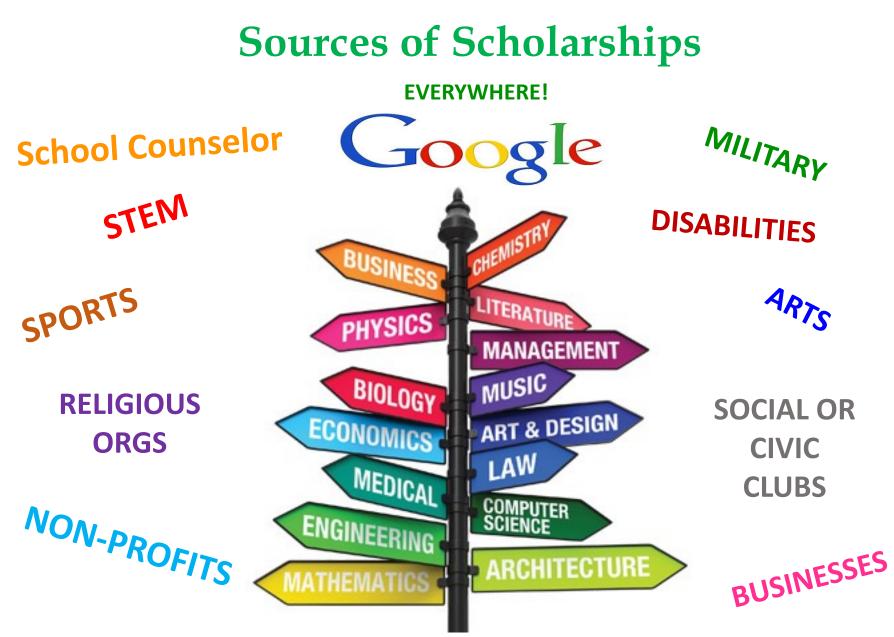
Scholarships (Gift Aid)

- Develop a plan to search for scholarships.
- Find a scholarship mentor.
- Don't run from essays, get help proofreading and recycle responses
- Provide all requested documentation
- Track your scholarship progress





College Planning (Strategy 9) - Page 95-101



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Scholarship Sources

- High School Counseling Offices
- Online
 - Scholarship America Hub: <u>https://scholarshipamerica.org</u>
 - ✤ Cappex: <u>www.cappex.com/</u>
 - College Board: <u>www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org</u>
 - EducationUSA: <u>https://educationusa.state.gov</u>
 - ✤ Fastweb: <u>www.fastweb.com</u>
 - Niche: <u>www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/?niche=niche-scholarships</u>
 - College Scholarships: <u>www.collegescholarships.com</u>
 - Scholarship.com: <u>www.Scholarships.com</u>
 - Scholly: <u>www.scholly.com</u>

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Psi Psi Omega Chapter (Stafford & Fauquier Counties) http://www.staffordaka.com/scholarships.html

- Encouraged to apply for our scholarships
- Students who attend school or reside in Stafford or Fauquier Counties

Types of Scholarships:

- Service Leadership
- ThinkHBCU
- Vocational/Community College
- Continuing College Student
- The Arts!



Join My Exclusive Group "Scholarships for Scholars"







Conclusion

- College admissions planning should not be an after thought.
- ✤ Discuss how you (parent/guardians) will pay for college.
- Put together a system or plan that works for YOU! (include a budget)
- ✤ Track your college admissions and funding progress.
- ✤ Get organized:
 - Create folders for college planning & funding documents.
 - Save account/login information in a central place.
 - Create a separate email address for college efforts.
- Look for scholarships until you graduate from college!
- Don't waste people's time!!!!
- Say thank you.

Follow me on Social Media Invest N Others LLC Email: christiemurrayaka@gmail.com



For more resources: <u>www.InvestNothers.com</u> **Closing Remarks**

Complete the Survey Monkey Evaluation *We appreciate your feedback!*

- Evaluation Link: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LYBQ6CZ</u>
- Click the survey link in the chat function or scan the QR code.
- Tell us about your needs or future topics
- Email will also be sent to participants with the:
 - Evaluation Survey Monkey link
 - Student slides
 - ✤ Future webinar events



Give-a-ways (4) Sponsored by the Psi Psi Omega Chapter

College <u>Planning & Funding</u> Strategies I Wish Someone Had Told Me By: Dr. Christie Murray

Unmute ...Name and High School



Upcoming Events To Register Visit:

https://www.investnothers.com/webinar-material

(April)	(May)
SAT Prep Strategies	ACT Prep Strategies
Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET) (For High School Students)	Sunday, May 22, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET) (For High School Students)
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(For High School Students & Parents)	(For High School Students & Parents)

Past AKA Collaboration Webinar Recordings and Videos



- Top Strategies for Taking the SAT/ACT: <u>https://youtu.be/U2x9hIJngao</u>
- Writing Essays & Letters of Recommendation: <u>https://youtu.be/KlJ9SvbMVyo</u>
- General College Information & HBCUs: <u>https://youtu.be/EzR-Vk9pRKI</u>
- College Planning Made Easy: <u>https://youtu.be/RTfeZNL-BvA</u>
- College Funding and Financial Literacy: <u>https://youtu.be/FFavH7H5m88</u>
- College Admissions Panel: <u>https://youtu.be/-VWJZw6eBVU</u>
- Essay Writing and Letters of Recommendation: <u>https://youtu.be/UvWmgmbYWMs</u>
- SAT Prep Webinar: <u>https://youtu.be/u-Y2L58YZ50</u>
- ACT Prep Webinar: <u>https://youtu.be/hllxrEqU0gw</u>





(Unmute Your Line or Submit a Chat Question)

Thank You!



www.investNothers.com/webinar-material