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Grants Are A Great Option For Online College Students

Tuition for online degrees can be made easier with the help of grants, which typically don't have to be repaid. Students of all ages can find these forms of tuition assistance available to them, but often don't know how or where to begin the search. Everything that gets a student closer to their degree is valuable information and research is the key.

Scholarships and fellowships might also be considered grants, though fellowships might have fieldwork as a part of their criterion. Colleges and universities often award [distance education degree](#) to students who study at their institutions. Government agencies, corporate giants, non-profit organizations and special interest, community and civic groups often make non-school specific financial aid offerings available. Many of these might be applicable to online college classes and online degree and certificate programs. It's important that a nationally recognized accrediting agency certify these online colleges, universities and vocational schools are accredited.

Scholarships, fellowships and grants for college aren't always based on academics or financial need. Applicants might have to demonstrate leadership or perform community service in order to receive them. Some grants, scholarships and fellowships are intended for specific studies, some are tailored to women and minorities, and some are awarded based on a combination of factors. The following guidance might help take some of the time and stress out of searching for online college grants, scholarships and fellowships:

Go Local: Students can look within their community for scholarships that are often extended to members or those within a specific region. Churches and synagogues often award scholarships. Community groups and civic organizations such as Rotary International, Kiwanis, the Lion's Club and chambers of commerce tend to do so as well.

Think Big: Companies such as Tylenol, State Farm, Wal-Mart, AT&T, and McDonald's have been known to offer scholarships and fellowships to a wide variety of students. Wal-Mart target high school students with minimum grade point averages; AT&T offers a fellowship program that pays for tuition, books, fees and more for doctorate degree-seeking minorities and women in computing and communications.

Consider Yourself and Your Goals: Some organizations offer scholarships and fellowships based on fields of study or specific demographics. Groups such as the National Science Foundation, the Hispanic College Fund, the United Negro College Fund and the American Association of University Women are among them. And organizations such as the non-profit Raise the Nation tailor scholarships to single mothers.

Set A Foundation: Charitable foundations offer a variety of scholarships, fellowships and grants for college. Undergraduate community college students seeking transfers to work on bachelor degrees can find scholarship assistance available from the Jack Kent Cook Foundation; and minorities, those with disabilities, and graduate students studying to become a professor might apply for assistance from the Ford Foundation. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation provide scholarships to first-time degree seekers and high school graduates respectively.

One-Stop Shop: Students seeking government assistance such as work study programs for qualifying [pell grant](#) can determine their eligibility by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid online. The results might include low-interest loans that students might consider after other forms of tuition assistance are deducted. These loans, awarded by colleges and universities, typically don't require credit checks and collateral, and they don't have to be repaid until after graduation.

Going back to college or starting out as a high school graduate requires hard work and dedication to the goal of getting a [degree](#). Letting financial concerns stop this educational course is not in the student's best interest as with the availability of online [scholarships](#) and grants, there is most likely something for everyone.

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